



SHOCK AT EXCLUSION OF PUPILS

Report by Richard Guttridge



Councillor Ian Cooper

DUDLEY has the joint highest rate of school pupil exclusions in the country, shocking new figures have revealed.

Nowhere else in the country has an exclusion rate higher than Dudley's. Eighty children were permanently excluded from schools in the Dudley borough during the 12-month period, equivalent to 0.18 per cent of the school population.

This could only be matched by Tameside in Manchester. The figure is eight times that of Wolverhampton, where only 10 children were permanently excluded during the same period, which is just 0.02 per cent of the school population.

The figures come just weeks after a damning inspection report at a Dudley primary school where the total of excluded pupils is 10 times the national average.

Across the region pupils were barred for assaulting adults and fellow students, threatening behaviour and for use of drugs and alcohol, but the most common reason was for persistent disruptive behaviour.

After Dudley, Walsall saw the next highest amount of exclusions in Black Country at 60 - 0.12 per cent of the school population.

There were 40 exclusions in Sandwell, which was equivalent to 0.08 per cent.

Attacks

In total, 750 pupils were permanently excluded from West Midlands schools.

In Dudley, five pupils physically assaulted adults while there were 17 attacks on pupils. Some 32 pupils were excluded for persistent disruption.

Woodside Primary School, in Highgate Road, Dudley, plunged into special measures in June after Ofsted inspectors witnessed pupils using physical violence against classmates - including children being kicked in the head and stomach.

Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services at Dudley Council, said: "We continue to work hard in partnership with all schools to further reduce school days lost to exclusion, both fixed term and permanent. Year on year there has been a decline in fixed term exclusions.

"We are committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Dudley get the best possible access to education.

"Whilst exclusions are sometimes necessary, both for the wellbeing of the student concerned and other students in the school, schools work hard at finding ways of supporting all young people to access learning."

The council said temporary exclusions at its schools were below the regional average.

Merry Hill centre value up by £11m

THE value of Merry Hill Shopping Centre has shot up by almost £11 million, its owners have confirmed.

Intu Properties, which owns half the complex, says the nine per cent rise is due to more valuable rents.

The Brierley Hill shopping complex rose in value from £434.8m at the end of December to £445.6m at the end of June.

Intu has plans to spend £65m on enhancing the centre, which is also owned by QIC. It spent £403.8m on buying 50 per cent of the centre, which has 214 shops and generates £22.6m annual income.

Chief executive David Fischel said retailers were responding positively to taking space in centres where change and investment are under way. He added: "We attract over 400 million customer visits a year and aim to provide them with a great experience which encourages them to come more often, stay for longer and spend more with our retailers."

The company owns and operates many of the UK's biggest and most popular retail destinations.

Meanwhile, Australian stationery firm Smiggle has opened a new store at Merry Hill, creating 10 jobs.

Motorcyclist is killed in bus collision

A MOTORCYCLIST from Quarry Bank died in a crash with a minibus in Wales at the weekend.

Nigel Christopher Thompson, aged 49, has been named as the victim following the accident in mid Wales on Sunday.

In a statement, Mr Thompson's family said they will 'sincerely miss him'.

The crash happened at 8.50am on the A489 near Newtown, Powys.

Dyfed-Powys Police spokeswoman Katy Simmons said: "One was a motorcyclist that was ridden by Mr Thompson and the other vehicle was a minibus with three people on board.

Scene

"Tragically Mr Thompson was pronounced dead at the scene of the collision.

"The three people on board the minibus were not injured but taken to a local hospital as a precaution."

She added: "The road remained closed throughout the day whilst specialist officers conducted a thorough investigation to establish the cause of the collision."

Sculpture honours hard work on canals



Cradley Heath artist Luke Perry with his steel-made Canal Workers Monument which will be displayed on the canal at Hurst Junction

Art to say thanks

A SCULPTURE honouring the volunteers who have worked for more than 50 years to preserve the canals of the Black Country will be installed next week.

Cradley Heath artist Luke Perry has created a piece celebrating those who have given up their time to care for Dudley's historic canal tunnel and limestone mines.

He is now putting the finishing touches to the artwork which has been commissioned by Dudley Canal Trust. It depicts a spade held in a pair of hands, is cast in steel and will go on display in one of the canal caverns under Dudley.

Written on the head of the spade are the words: "This monument is a celebration of the people who

have kept this canal alive for over 50 years."

Bosses at the canal trust, off Birmingham New Road, said the efforts of volunteers over the years had turned the site into one of the busiest stretches of canal in the country with more than 80,000 visitors per year.

Mr Perry has been working on the piece at his studio in Cradley Heath for months and said it would be transported to the canal trust HQ next week.

It will be transported aboard a vintage truck before being installed at Hurst Junction.

The sculpture will be placed on a plinth with natural light shining on it from a well opening above.

PETITION

Hundreds object to store plan for pub

ALMOST 700 people have signed a petition against plans to turn a Halesowen pub into a convenience store.

New River Retail is looking to convert the Hasbury Inn in Hagley Road into a shop run by The Co-operative Group.

The proposals have sparked a community backlash with letters of objection and a petition with 674 signatures submitted to the council. A decision on the plans is due to be made by councillors on Monday.

New River Retail say the new store would employ up to six full-time and 14 part-time staff.

BUSINESS

Company's workers will be on the move

HUNDREDS of workers are to be moved from the Black Country to a multi-million pound new headquarters to be built next to Birmingham Airport.

Construction and services group Interserve aims to bring together staff from its sites across the region at the new office block in 2018.

Around 1,200 people will move from offices at Dudley, West Bromwich, Erdington, Redditch and the company's RMD Kwikform business at Aldridge. No job losses are anticipated.

CARAVANS

Travellers return to park despite bollards

TRAVELLERS have moved back onto land in Halesowen.

Caravans returned to Hurst Green Park just weeks after a group was moved on.

Dudley Council said it was working with the police to try to remove them.

Their arrivals comes despite efforts to try to secure the site with bollards and by locking gates.

Travellers were last seen at Hurst Green Park in June.

Council spokeswoman Jessica Haines said: "We are aware of the current situation and are working with the police to try and remove them."

INSIDE

MEERKAT'S SELFIE



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Dealer caught with £100k of heroin



Drug dealer Elton Hoxha

A DRUG dealer has been jailed for nine years after police caught him in a car with £100,000 worth of heroin.

Elton Hoxha, 25, was found guilty of possession with intent to supply the Class A drug and money laundering following a trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Hoxha, of Wychbury Road, Stourbridge, was part of a drug dealing ring, the jury had heard.

On January 13, father-of-three Hoxha was a front seat passenger in the Vauxhall Corsa driven by Arber Zyba when it was pulled over by police. Faition

Duduci was in the back seat with 1kg of heroin in two packages next to him. Police officers stopped the car on Park Road, Lye, and arrested the trio.

Judge Martin Walsh said it was clear from mobile phone evidence that the network Hoxha was involved with was 'sophisticated' and he intended distribution of the heroin.

Hoxha had denied both charges.

Miss Samantha Powis, defending, said: "Mr Hoxha was not sitting with the drugs and didn't touch the drugs."

She added that there was no drug paraphernalia in his house.

When he was arrested, officers found £14,000 in cash at Hoxha's home.

Judge Walsh said: "Class A drugs destroy individuals' lives and blight communities. All those who cynically involve themselves must expect significant sentences."

Duduci, 22, of Vicarage Road, Lye, pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply and money laundering. He will be sentenced later this year.

Zyba, 28, of Holly Lane, Erdington, was found not guilty of possession with intent to supply.

More than £2m unpaid rent owed to council

COUNCIL house tenants in Dudley owe more than £2 million in unpaid rent.

Thousands of accounts are in arrears, Dudley Council says, and the total amount owed stands at £2,106,492.

At the end of June at total of 9,767 accounts were in arrears but the council said these included tenants that paid on a monthly basis by direct debit or standing order.

The amount owed is up on last year's figure. This time last year the bill was £1,405,690 with 5,435 accounts in arrears.

Bosses said although these accounts are technically in arrears they would not be taking any action unless they missed a payment. Reminder letters and text messages are sent to those owing rent. Phone calls and visits are also made by the housing team before legal action is taken.

The council says it will always work to reclaim debt but advice and help was available for those families struggling to pay their bills.

Council leader Pete Lowe said: "Where we do not receive payment, we will go to court to seek possession. This can result in eviction if no payment arrangement is made."

"We recognise that our tenants may be experiencing financial difficulty and will always try to support them to make payments, sustain their tenancy and clear arrears."

Fraud

Sixty council tenants were evicted between April 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014 after falling behind on payments.

In 2014/15, the council launched more than 460 investigations in 12 months and uncovered 164 cases of housing fraud. The authority also seized 60 properties after discovering tenants breaking the rules.

People were caught giving the wrong information on housing applications, unlawfully sub-letting their homes and not using their rented property as their main home.

In June, it emerged the council is owed £2.5 million in unpaid council tax from last year. Thousands of council tax accounts were not paid in full by the end of the 2014/15 financial year. But bosses say the authority has an excellent track record for clawing back money owed.

Fizzogs flying the flag at Fringe



The Fizzogs comedy troupe at Dudley Castle getting ready to fly the Black Country flag at Edinburgh Festival Fringe

DANCING grannies sensation The Fizzogs will be flying the flag for the Black Country this week when they take part in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The Dudley comedy act's appearance comes hot on the heels of the group taking a leading role in this year's Black Country Festival.

Now the comedy act - who became an internet sensation with their dancing grannies routine - are heading north of the border as

they appear for the first time in the Fringe, one of the world's biggest theatre festivals.

Their show, Fifty Shades of Fizzog, runs from this Friday to August 13.

"We are going to represent the Black Country in Edinburgh," said member Sue Hawkins. "It's something we have wanted to do for years and comes on the back of our dancing grannies video going viral on social media."

The group have been recognised for their work for the Black Country Festival by Dudley Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho, who presented the group with an engraved glass tankard and a framed certificate at a civic reception.

Councillor Waltho said: "The Black Country Festival celebrations have been a highlight of my mayoral year so far. I'm thrilled to have had the opportunity to wish The Fizzogs all the best."

Worker gets payout over serious leg injury agony

A WORKER who suffered a severe leg injury has won a payout from his former employer after they admitted breaching health and safety guidelines.

Labourer Glenn Lowe slipped on loose black paving when carrying a heavy kitchen unit, which fell onto his leg and left him badly injured.

Weeks later his symptoms worsened and he suffered from various infections. He was left in constant pain and has since been diagnosed with a chronic pain condition.

In June last year, more than a year after he received the injury in May 2013, he was dismissed from his job.

The 47-year-old then instructed specialist serious injury lawyers to investigate his case to see if his employers, Grelson Limited, based in Stourbridge, had breached health and safety guidelines.

Solicitors firm Irwin Mitchell have now secured him an undisclosed settlement from his former employer to help towards his ongoing rehabilitation.

Father-of-one Mr Lowe is now hoping to move to a bungalow due to his difficulties with mobility as a result of the accident.

He said: "This will be a huge help to my family and now with the ongoing medical care and access to rehabilitation services I can focus all my time and energy on my recovery. I have relied on my wife Penny and my daughter heavily since the accident and they have been absolutely fantastic."

Grelson Limited declined to comment.

New skills offer in courses for adults

WORKSHOPS and learning courses for adults will start in September in Dudley.

Details are available in Dudley Council's latest adult learning brochure and on the council's website at www.dudley.gov.uk/adultlearn

The part-time courses take place in local community centres and include visual and performing arts, history and heritage, computers, healthy living, family learning, and languages, including sign language.

Courses are also available for people who want to catch up on basic skills such as reading, writing and maths as well as courses for people whose first language is not English.

For further information call (01384) 818143 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/knowledge

Caravan destroyed in mystery blaze

A CARAVAN was destroyed when it went up in flames in Dudley. An out-building was also damaged in the blaze off Stourbridge Road on Thursday. Crews from Brierley Hill were called but the caravan was gutted by the mysterious fire, which started around 1pm.

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More than 450 thefts reported at care homes

MORE than 450 thefts were reported at care and nursing homes in the West Midlands during the last three years, new figures reveal.

Jewellery, cash and medication were among items stolen from residents, with the value of lost property totalling tens of thousands of pounds.

Despite the hundreds of incidents reported, investigations resulted in only 33 people being charged. Two were care home workers.

In total, 465 thefts were reported at care homes and nursing homes between January 2012 and June 2015.

Thieves' most popular item of choice were mobile phones but laptops, a credit card, a passport and a sat nav were also taken. The most expensive item stolen was a piece of jewellery worth £4,000.

But figures released by West Midlands Police showed that thefts from care and nursing homes had fallen.

Surprising

Dudley's Councillor Steve Waltho said the figures were surprising but added: "There are hundreds of care homes and hospitals across the Midlands and we don't know how these figures compare with the rest of the country. My mother is in a care home and I know how vigilant they try to be. It's also important to remember carers themselves are also victims."

Councillor Waltho said CCTV at care homes could help prevent thefts but it was also important residents were given privacy.

Motorcyclist is injured in collision

A MOTORCYCLIST and a taxi collided, blocking a busy road in Halesowen yesterday morning (Wednesday).

It happened shortly before 7am on Dudley Road near the junction with Shenstone Island.

The motorcyclist, a man aged in his 30s, suffered shoulder, leg and wrist injuries in the accident.

He was taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital for further assessment and for treatment.

Around a 500ft section of Dudley Road was closed in both directions after the crash close to Mucklow Hill. Opening again around 9am.

Railings were damaged in the accident near a pedestrian crossing outside Shenstone House offices, which are a base for Halesowen College.

Firm support for table tennis table

A DUDLEY company came to the rescue of sporty Age UK seniors by mending their table tennis table. ASD Metal Services, Peartree Lane, fixed the table's metal strut after it broke at Springboard Activity Centre.

Ring and Ride bus use is declining



Fewer use the Ring and Ride service

THE number of journeys made by the door-to-door Ring and Ride service has dropped by more than a quarter of a million.

Figures show the service for elderly and disabled people took 1,010,908 trips in 2014-15, compared with 1,286,418 the year before.

The service has been charging for trips since 2011 but bosses at transport authority Centro said declining use started before charges were introduced.

But a campaigner said she believed the £2 per journey charge at evenings

and weekends had played a key part. Pat O'Dowd of the Wolverhampton branch of the National Pensioners Convention said: "The charge for evenings and weekends is almost as much as the standard fare to go by bus, which pensioners get free with their passes."

"We have also been saying for a while that it is very difficult to get through to the call centre and book a time. It's not often possible to get the time you want. Ring and Ride is meant to be a door-to-door service and a lot of people need it to visit friends."

The service is aimed at people who cannot easily use conventional public transport.

Centro spokesman Mark Langford said: "Ring and Ride is an extremely popular door-to-door transport service for people who find it difficult or impossible to use conventional public transport, and while there is a long-term downward trend in its use this started before the introduction of the charge in 2011. In recent years conventional public transport has become much more accessible than before thanks to innovations."

Quarry pool youngsters are dicing with death

CHILDREN are dicing with death by breaking into a Rowley Regis quarry and 'tombstoning' into the water.

Bosses at Edwin Richards Quarry put out a warning that rocks lie beneath the surface and someone might be killed.

The water was also described as 'exceptionally cold'. The perilous craze of tombstoning involves leaping from a cliff or other high point into water below.

Security patrols have now been stepped up at the quarry in a bid to deter youngsters from trespassing. The land has been earmarked for a housing development with work due to start next year, but in the meantime, the firm behind the proposals says it is taking action to secure the 100,000 sq ft site.

Site manager at FCC Environment Ann Earley, said: "Following several incidents of trespass at the Edwin Richards Quarry we have stepped up security patrols. We encourage parents and carers to warn their children about the hazards of playing and swimming in unsupervised waters like quarries, rivers, lakes and reservoirs, and of the dangers of tombstoning. "We would like to emphasise that swimming at unsupervised sites like this is very dangerous, as the water is still exceptionally cold and hidden rocks lie just beneath the surface."

Campaign

In 2013, 15-year-old Augusto Zacarias died after slipping from a ledge and plunging into a pool at a disused quarry near to the Crooked House pub in Himley. Family and friends launched a campaign after the death, calling for the disused quarry to be closed and security at the site stepped up.

FCC Environment is targeting early 2016 to start its homes scheme at the Rowley Regis site, which would see the quarry filled in and 281 houses built on its southern edge.

The scheme could take up to 30 years to complete but it is hoped the homes could be completed during the next decade.

It is hoped the gaping hole that is the quarry will eventually become open green space to be used by residents of the new homes.

Ms Earley added FCC Environment would seek prosecutions against those illegally accessing the quarry. She added: "It is also important that people are aware that trespassing onto private land is against the law."

Councillors backed the plan to regenerate the site earlier this year.



War veteran Tom Bull, aged 88, grappled with an intruder in his home and made the burglar flee after hitting him with his walking stick

Old soldier fought off burglar in his home

THE granddaughter of a war veteran who fought off a burglar with his walking stick has spoken of her pride in her 88-year-old tough guy.

Tom Bull sent the raider packing after he forced his way into his Kingswinford bungalow. His granddaughter Deborah Smith said he wouldn't hesitate to do it again.

The great-great grandfather came across the burglar in his hallway after he was woken by a noise. The pair struggled and Mr Bull suffered cuts to his arms but reached for his walking stick and hit the intruder over the head with it. The raider fled empty-handed.

Mr Bull, who served with the Welsh Guards during the Second World War, said: "I was a little bit shook up but I'm alright."

The brave pensioner has angina and has to receive oxygen.

Ms Smith, a pharmacist, said: "He is a tough guy. He may be 88 but he is no shrinking violet. We need to prevent this happening to another person, perhaps a small old lady."

Anyone with information should contact police on 101.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Voluntary worker loses cancer battle

A POPULAR voluntary worker has lost her battle against cancer. Valerie Clarke, 76, of Jenks Avenue, Kinvor, died on July 18.

Mrs Clarke was a former voluntary youth club leader at Grainger's Lane Methodist Church in Cradley Heath. She became a Cub Scout leader and president of Kinvor Evening Women's Institute, and was also a volunteer for the Mary Stevens Hospice charity shop and the National Trust's Kinvor Rock Houses. She leaves husband Bob, two children and four grandchildren. Her funeral was at Kinvor last week.

Red Lemons in second concert

LEGENDARY Black Country group The Red Lemon Electric Blues Band have added an extra home town date after their first reunion gig sold out.

The band formed in 1985 and supported the likes of Chuck Berry, as well as gigging regularly around Birmingham and the Black Country. Future TV presenter Suzi Perry, whose father Tony managed them, would sometimes appear with the group.

Following the September 11 gig, a second on September 12 at Stourbridge Town Hall is available at www.wolvescivic.co.uk or on 0870 320 7000.

Get information on foster caring

PEOPLE interested in becoming foster carers are being urged to attend information sessions.

Dudley Council's fostering service is looking for new carers to provide homes for children in the borough.

Fostering Friday drop-in session take place every Friday from 1pm to at Flipside House, Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill.

Call the fostering service on (01384) 815833 for more information.

Children's centre is revamped in 24 hours

A CHILDREN'S centre was transformed in a day by staff from a home-ware chain and a £7,000 donation.

The Four Dwellings Children's Centre in Quinton was refurbished in just 24 hours by 50 Dunelm staff.

There is now a quiet space giving a comfortable seating area and educational sensory equipment for children and their families. Jane Middleton, assistant director, said: "The transformation has meant a lot to the families and children that use our centre."

Road delay warning

MOTORISTS have been warned to expect delays on a main route into Stourbridge due to gas pipe work.

National Grid will be carrying out works on Hagley Road, near its junction with Birmingham Road. The work will begin tomorrow (Friday) and is expected to last for four days.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



WHAT is it with all these beards? The fashion for facial fungus is infesting the upper lips and chins of young men everywhere. Are beards the new tattoos? There is a theory that beards become fashionable at times when men feel threatened by women or by change in general. They were almost compulsory in Victorian England when there was a woman on the throne and the rise of business corporations made individuals feel less important. Perhaps the rise of feminism accounts for today's crop of beards. Unless, of course, beard-wearers are part of that generation which has gone to university but learned very little and is now eager to appear intellectual. A beard may suggest brainpower where there is actually none. As the critic A G Aill put it perfectly: "I've never been convinced that facial hair is an alternative to thought."

THE Lord Sewel coke 'n' hookers scandal has inevitably brought calls for the House of Lords in all its portly, ermine-trimmed magnificence, to be reduced, reformed or possibly dynamited. It ain't going to happen. There are only two organisations that could vote the Lords out of existence. The first is the Lords themselves, which would be like turkeys voting for Christmas, but with extra stuffing. The second is the House of Commons. But Members of Parliament regard the Lords as a delightful place to spend their post-MP years, so they are hardly going to get rid of the best club in town, are they?

"I HOPE my decision will limit and help repair the damage I have done to an institution I hold dear," declares Lord Sewel's resignation statement. The institution appears to be the House of Lords. Not marriage, then?

FOR all practical purposes Kepler-452b, the "earth-like" planet discovered by Nasa, might as well be pure invention. Even if we could travel at the speed of light, it would take us 1,400 years to get there. The images we see of Kepler-452b today are 1,400 years old. For all we know, it may not even exist any more. Some people may find such discoveries fascinating but they are stupendously irrelevant.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

New Street boycott threat over cab fees

BLACK cab drivers in Birmingham are threatening to boycott New Street Station after being told they will have to pay extra fees of up to £1,000 per year to pick up passengers.

There were fears that thousands of commuters could be left stranded.

The taxi driver's union, RMT, is meeting with Network Rail bosses over the charges, which the union say could see drivers forced out of business.

by Jack Avery

RMT added that drivers already pay a 20p fee to the station every time they pick up a passenger there. It also stated that drivers had show great patience in working around the construction site for the last five years.

But Network Rail says the new fees, which are being introduced when the station fully opens on September 20, are part of a policy to improve air quality by issuing higher charges for the more polluting cars.

United

RMT general secretary Mick Cash, said: "None of our taxi driver members will accept Network Rail's terms. They are all united and determined that no-one will pay this extortionate fee."

"Instead, drivers will be forced to ply for hire near the station, meaning that Network Rail's actions will simply inconvenience passengers by making them walk further to pick up a taxi.

"This will have serious consequences and create severe congestion throughout the surrounding area."

"Bearing in mind that £750 million has been spent refurbishing New Street station to benefit passengers, it is appalling that one of the results will be to disrupt and inconvenience passengers with onward travel needs as taxi drivers are unfairly penalised."

Network Rail said the new charge is designed to discourage older and more polluting vehicles.

A spokeswoman added: "The charge is on a sliding scale, similar to the road tax, starting at around £400 per year. The £1,000 is at the higher end of the scale."

"This is designed to ensure better air quality and a better customer experience."

The disruption could start during September as an unprecedented number of major events are being held in the city centre.

Zahraa's first novel published



Zahraa Arif with her romantic novel *The Spaces in Between*

A THERAPIST from Halesowen has published her first novel that tells a Muslim love story.

Zahraa Arif wrote *The Spaces in Between* whilst undertaking her masters degree in Counselling Psychology at Keele University.

Miss Arif, 26, from Springfield Road, explained how the book portrays a tragic love story written from an Islamic perspective.

She said: "The story looks at how the main character deals with loss, after losing her soul mate. There are so many different ways of grieving and I wanted to show that in my writing."

"I never imagined that it would be published. It's only a short story but for me it is the biggest achievement."

"It is all purely fiction and not based on anyone I know, but I really hope that it may help someone going through a similar situation."

"When I was writing it I only told a few people and when my mum saw it on my laptop she said you need to get this published."

Miss Arif, who works as a therapist in Birmingham and Bromsgrove, is also a poet. Her work can be seen on Instagram @futurepast poetry.

Map of churchyard war graves available

VISITORS to a churchyard in the Black Country will now find it much easier to locate the graves of ancestors and war heroes after church leaders secured a detailed map of the grounds.

The large-scale map has arrived at St Peter's Church in Cradley and contains details of where graves are and guides people along the church's heritage trail.

It has been created by Midland Film and Art after a bid for £10,000 of lottery funding was successful.

It is being stored in the church and is now available for visitors to view.

More than 40 war heroes are buried at the church. Visitors regularly attend the churchyard to find out more about their history.

Relatives of those laid to rest in the grounds often find it difficult to locate the graves of loved ones, prompting the creation of the map.

The churchyards contains 12 war graves as well as around 30 more of people who served with the military. There are around 10 more deemed to be of local interest, including former headteachers and people who held other prominent positions in the area.

Vicar at St Peter's Reverend Katryn Leclerio said: "It is a highly detailed map, featuring the different sections and individual plots and it takes you to the exact location of the grave of interest."

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City will deal with emergency heart care

HEART attack victims in Sandwell will no longer be treated at the General Hospital in West Bromwich but five miles away at City Hospital, Birmingham.

All emergency coronary care is being centralised at City as bosses say the current system is 'unsatisfactory'. But the move will mean longer ambulance journeys for people in Sandwell.

Two cardiac units will be set up at City Hospital at the Dudley Road site to accommodate the rise in patients. Outpatient appointments will still take place at Sandwell General Hospital and Rowley Regis Community Hospital.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust said it was confident the move would improve care.

Medical director Roger Stedman said: "The location of interventional cardiac care on one site will provide full emergency 24-hour cover, 365 days per year with improved access times from when patients arrive for emergency treatment until the time they receive the necessary procedure."

"The public are advised to dial 999 for help if they experience severe chest pain. West Midlands Ambulance Service will bring all patients suspected of needing urgent cardiac treatment straight to City Hospital."

Old soldiers dying before getting promised medal

MORE than a dozen D-Day veterans from across the Black Country and Staffordshire, who were promised France's highest military award for bravery, have died without receiving the medal.

Last year, the French Government announced it would give the Legion d'Honneur to all surviving Normandy veterans.

Only a fraction of the 3,000 servicemen who applied for medals have received them. Campaigners say the delay has meant veterans have died before they had chance to receive the medals. The veterans have an average age of 95 and are dying at a rate of 10 a week.

The medal recognises heroism displayed by surviving veterans of the Normandy landings and campaigns to liberate France in 1944. It is not awarded posthumously.

Campaigner Joy Widows said 11 veterans from Wolverhampton and Staffordshire had died since French President Francois Hollande announced the medals would be awarded on June 6 last year.

Funerals

She said: "I've been to 11 funerals since then. This has taken far too long. The French Government made a promise, but a lot of veterans are questioning whether they will be around to re-

ceive the award. It is causing a great deal of distress. This needs to be sorted out as a matter of urgency."

Another campaigner, Hilary Brown, holds a database of veterans from the Black Country who are eligible to receive the medal.

"If I ring one of them and they don't answer the phone I always fear the worst," said Mrs Brown, of King'swinford. "Some of these men won't live to receive the award."

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey says he has written to the Ministry of Defence requesting they urge the French Government to 'act quickly'.

The distribution of the medals has been blighted by red tape. The French Embassy in London says the applications are now being prioritised on age and health grounds.

by Peter Madeley

Ambassador to begin new role for town



Apprentice ambassador for Dudley Lewis Sinclair with town ambassador Nikki Cheung

AN APPRENTICE ambassador for Dudley has been appointed as part of the £6.7 million transformation of the town centre.

Former Halesowen College student Lewis Sinclair has taken up the role. The 20-year-old will work alongside ambassador Nikki Cheung to promote the town.

It comes as work nears completion on the multi-million pound revamp of Dudley Market. Work has also begun on a £1.1m revamp of Coronation Gardens to include an amphitheatre, water in the fountain for the first time in decades, new seating, paths and lighting.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "The ambassador scheme continues to grow from strength to strength, as we look for new opportunities to celebrate everything that is happening in Dudley."

"I would like to extend a warm welcome to Lewis, and look forward to the positive outcomes that he and the town ambassador can bring. These are exciting times for Dudley."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wildlife safaris at The Leasowes

WILDLIFE safaris for youngsters on their summer holidays are taking place at a Black Country beauty spot.

Two separate tours around Grade I listed The Leasowes, in Halesowen, will take place on August 12 (at noon and 1pm) with the focus on bugs, birds, bees and toads.

On August 19 wardens at the park off Mucklow Hill will be teaching visitors about the importance of trees to life on Earth through a variety of activities, art and games at 10am and 1pm. On August 26 wardens will lead a woodland walk where children can solve puzzles and find treasure at 10am and 1pm.

Each session costs £2 per child. Book on (01384) 814642.

Hope volunteers get fund boost

AN MP has presented a cheque to volunteers at Halesowen's Hope Centre.

The money was raised by residents of Halas Homes, a specialist organisation for people with learning disabilities.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris met fundraisers and service users of The Hope Centre, which was awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Work.

The £176 donation was collected during National Care Home Open Day. Mr Morris said: "Halesowen and Rowley Regis has a vibrant charitable and community spirited sector."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Pubs losing out as big companies set up shop

WHEN John Pickup saved his local pub near Bridgnorth, he had a simple rationale for his efforts: "If we didn't do something, we would have ceased to be a village, we would have become just a collection of houses."

Our community pubs are the fabric of British society, the glue that binds our towns and villages together.

And according to the Campaign for Real Ale, pubs in the West Midlands are still closing at the rate of around six a week.

Now I'm not one of those diehards who believe it is a tragedy whenever a pub shuts its doors.

Let's be honest, while we may have lost many excellent pubs over the past 10 year or so, we have also lost some pretty dreadful ones.

You know the sort I mean, the non-descript boozers, often staffed by a succession of short-term managers, the sort that specialise in stale cobs, bland lager, and an occasional knuckle sandwich just after last orders. Should we really mourn their passing?

But the sad thing is that, as the economy picks up, it is not just the failing pubs which are under threat, but the thriving, popular ones too.

The Seven Stars in Sedgley and the Hasbury Inn in Halesowen are both popular, well-frequented pubs in pleasant, close-knit communities.

They are not at risk of closure because they struggle to pull in the punters, but simply because the sites they occupy are more valuable to the supermarket giants.

The battle over the Seven Stars seems to have been rumbling on for years. The local authority refused planning permission, so the Morrisons' simply got the decision overturned by Whitehall, just 10 years after being told to relinquish its supermarket in the village centre by the Monopolies Commission.

So much for localism and devolution.

And there will then be tough times indeed for the long-established independent convenience stores in the two neighbouring roads. Look, I'm all for free enterprise, but something isn't working when thriving small businesses are just brushed aside like this.

Clare Embleton has had to have metal plates inserted into her face after chewing gum for seven hours a day wore her jaw out.

Alex Ferguson seems to have got off lightly, doesn't he?

AMERICAN dentist Walter Palmer seems to have united the world in disgust over his cowardly slaughter of Cecil, the much-loved lion on Zimbabwe.

Just as well no other barbaric brutality goes on in that country, isn't it?



Meet the boss — Dudley Zoo's Derek Grove, of Stourbridge



Cerys, Sam, Derek, David and Lynne Grove all worked at the zoo



At the controls — David Grove driving the zoo train in 2000

Running the zoo is a family affair for boss

Dudley Zoological Gardens are practically a family business for the attraction's new director, CLARE BUTLER reports

HE has taken over the running of one of the Black Country's most popular attractions at a crucial point in its history.

And Dudley Zoo's new director Derek Grove says he wants to keep up the rapid pace of change at the site, which has seen visitor numbers rocket in recent years.

The zoo is undergoing a huge transformation with new buildings, a joint entrance with the neighbouring Black Country Living Museum and a new visitor centre.

Mr Grove took over from former chief executive Peter Suddock, who stepped down from the role 'by mutual agreement' in April, following suspension amid an investigation into his conduct.

Mr Grove, aged 52, said: "Over the coming years it is important that the zoo continues to change at a similar pace like it has done."

Conservation

He wants to bring in more exhibitions and expand the range of animals – while also focusing on conservation.

Mr Grove originally started at the zoo in 1980 as a keeper, working his way through the ranks to head curator in his last role.

He said: "I always wanted to improve the zoo and the level of animal care.

"Animal care is always at the forefront of our decisions and we are working towards improving what we can do for them."

"It's about making it a more interesting visitor experience and bringing in more exhibitions too."

After a steep decline in visitor numbers during the 1980s and '90s, numbers have steadily been on the up growing at five per cent per year over the last ten years.

Mr Grove intends his past experience and passion for the animals will also allow him to



Surprise — The Grove family are joined by a photo-bombing lemur at Dudley Zoo

create a powerful force for wildlife conservation.

He said: "Pushing into more conservation is all within our zoo ethos, we want to develop every possible aspect. One of my favourite times spent here over the years has been working alongside the elephants – which I did for 18 years.

"I went over to France with them in 2003 to a elephant safari park and that was one of the last times I then worked with the animals before becoming curator.

"I stayed with them for a few weeks to help them acclimatise and to introduce them to their new carers.

"Being in a senior position has allowed me to be able to bring about change and most importantly change for the animals."

But his new position as director will also continue to add to the Grove family links at

the zoo – his wife, two children and father have also worked there over the past 35 years, making it a real family affair.

Mr Grove said: "I started as a trainee keeper in 1980. Before that I was a heating engineer. I actually came here to do a heating job in the hippo house and I stood and watched some keepers breaking ice on the moat.

"I thought 'I would like to do that' but it probably was a bit of a shock when on an ice cold morning you find yourself really doing it – maybe it wasn't as fun as it looked then.

"I've always loved my job and the animals and I have been lucky to be able to play a vital part in their wellbeing over the years."

Growing up with their father at the zoo, Mr Grove's two children, Cerys and Sam, were more than likely to follow in his footsteps.

Cerys, now 25, started working in a seasonal job at the zoo in 2006 after leaving school.

Not before long she was signed up as a student zoo keeper but has since left to pursue other ventures including owning her own pub in Swindon.

However, Sam, aged 22, has continued to work at the zoo, recently being promoted to senior keeper. He said he could even see his own children working at the zoo in the future.

He said: "When I was at school everyone loved the fact dad worked at the zoo. It was something different.

"I started working here in 2009. I left college as I felt it wasn't really for me as they encourage you to go down a normal route of getting a trade.

"I work with the primates, apes and reptiles, but I've got to say my favourite animal would be the baby orangutan Sprout."

Stepmother Lynne also works at the zoo but in a less animal-orientated role.

Mrs Grove, 57, was promoted to office manager this year, after previously working as PA to the chief executive at the zoo since 2000.

Santa

She insisted that despite loving the animals she would not be inclined to follow family footsteps and work with them.

Lastly, David Grove, Derek's father, completes the Dudley Zoo famous five.

Mr Grove, 79, only started work at the zoo after finishing his previous job at 61.

He said: "My wife said I didn't need a job but I was looking for something to do again and the role as train driver for one day a week came up at the zoo.

"After working on the train, I was approached to work as Santa too, so I had some varied roles. I was a bit of handyman. I would come in a couple of days a week and eventually knocked it down to a couple of times a month, before finishing fully a couple of years ago."

The Groves, who are from Stourbridge, say that as well as working together they still remain a close knit family, meeting up on weekends.

Dudley Zoological Gardens, on Castle Hill, opened in 1937 and covers an area of approximately 40 acres, and is home to more than 1,300 animals. It is open from 10am with last admission at 4pm and features a range of activities through the summer season.

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Identity lost in the name of progress

FOLLOWING the recent calls to celebrate Staffordshire Day next year, I wish I could, if only the county had not been dismembered by a government in 1966.

I was born in Bilston in the county of Staffordshire, on March 10, 1939. The Black Country was the power house of South Staffordshire.

All the Black Country towns of South Staffs could have had a real celebration with North Staffs, except Dudley which at that time was in the county of Worcestershire. It was an island in Staffordshire.

Let's not forget Staffordshire was the centre of the 'Kingdom of Mercia' in the seventh century.

This is what happens when the people of the country vote in people to look after you. They destroy your identity for their own selfish ends. They call it progress. Progress for whom? Not the people.

B LAWLEY
Bilston

I even pay council tax out of our £50 off the state. Last winter we nearly died of hypothermia due to not having money to keep warm. I have even applied for sweeping up and toilet cleaning jobs. But unfortunately I was informed I did not have enough experience in this field.

So from once being an assistant furniture manager at Woolworths and having a trade, which makes no difference now, and as my age is a barrier, I would like to ask our MPs: where are the 'jobs for everyone'?

While Dave is sipping Champagne

and feasting on pheasant, I would like to ask him to come and live like us for a month. Preferably in the winter, so he can help scrape the ice off the windows of our un-insulated home.

I have worked all my life, have good references, and all I want to do is put food on the table.

If I pass away this winter from hypothermia I have instructed my family to inscribe on my gravestone 'Passed away due to Conservative cuts' and I am an ex-Conservative voter.

C LLOYD
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Let them swim to Cloud Cuckoo Land

I feel that one of the worst engineering projects in Britain was the building of the Channel Tunnel. I think this country was far better when we were an island and people would have had to swim to get here.

I would like to ask George Osborne what sense does it make to make so many people redundant, when they will draw unemployment pay, instead of paying tax?

This includes police, firefighters, who are necessary, when 800 peers who are mainly redundant politicians can claim £150 to £300 per day just for going to the House of Lords. Are they necessary?

Why are we sending £250 billion to India over the next four years, apart from the millions we have already sent, and their finance minister says they don't need the 'peanut' money from Britain, when they have spent £250m to send a rocket to the moon. They also apparently spent millions of pounds to send aid to Nepal after their earthquake. Surely this money would be better used to pay off some of our debts. Or used for the NHS.

We seem to be using the economics of 'Cloud Cuckoo Land'.

C HOWELLS
Wordsley

Anti-skid measures worn out

IF MEMBERS of the public make a purchase, or have work done on their property, they expect it to last.

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What about public authorities?

Don't they too have the same rights?

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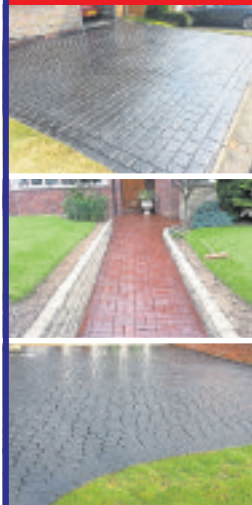
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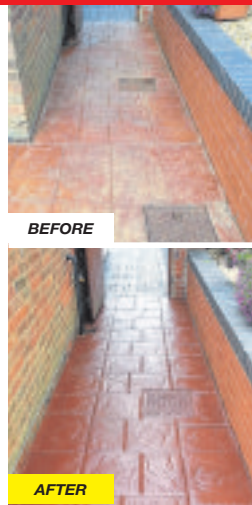
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Meet the Team

Michael Jordan LLB



Michael has been with the firm since 2006 when he joined as a trainee. He is now Managing Director specialising in Residential and Commercial Property.

Baldeep Kooner LLB



Baldeep is a Wills and Probate Specialist advising on Wills, Probate, Powers of Attorney, Tax Planning and Court of Protection cases.

Brinder Khara LLB



Brinder is an Accredited Family Solicitor and has been practising in the area of Family Law since 1996. She is also a Notary Public.

Recent additions to the team include Rikki Bateman and Emma Hingley. Rikki is a Qualified Solicitor specialising in Residential Property. He is vastly experienced in all aspects of buying and selling, including New Builds and Help to Buy Schemes. Emma has joined us from a local Estate Agents. She brings a wealth of experience, which will further improve the process of Buying or Selling a property for our clients and make it a smoother and less stressful process.

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Golf course vandalism prompts gate closure

THE gates of Warley Woods will be locked at night following a spate of vandalism on the golf course.

Holes have been dug and tyre marks left across the greens during a series of attacks at the popular beauty spot. As a result, the pedestrian gates opposite Lenwade Road and Grove Road will be locked between the hours of 6pm and 9am. The restrictions will start on Saturday.

Bosses say the damage has left them out of pocket because of repeatedly having to clear up after the vandals and fear it will put golfers off visiting the course.

Warley Woods Community Trust manager Vic Cole said there had been a spate of problems during recent months, prompting the group to take action. The decision to lock the gates will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

Prepared

"It is a range of things from holes being dug in the greens and bunkers, tyre marks on greens and bunkers full of feet and paw marks within a few hours of them having been prepared for play," she said.

"We rely on the golf income to help run the whole site and we are trying to make it a place people want to come back to."

The 100-acre nature reserve has previously been plagued by mini-moto riders.

It came after officers from the Abbey neighbourhood team began closing the vehicle gates off Abbey Road on some nights to prevent cars from accessing the site after dark.

Sandwell councillor Bob Piper, who represents the Abbey ward, said he could see why the trust had decided to close the gates at night but said some park users would be affected.

He said: "Why people would want to go into the park after dark I do not know, but the trust did receive feedback from people saying they used it in the early hours to walk their dogs and this move will inconvenience them."

Pupils meet cup hero



Sandwell Academy pupils take a selfie with Sir Geoff Hurst

FOOTIE-MAD youngsters from a Black Country school met up with England legend Sir Geoff Hurst to promote a new project.

Last Thursday, July 30, marked 49 years to the day since Hurst notched a hat-trick for England in the 1966 World Cup final against West Germany.

To mark the 50th anniversary next year, a new project - 66Winners - has been launched. The pu-

pils from Sandwell Academy, in Halfords Lane, travelled to Cheltenham Town FC to film a video with Sir Geoff to celebrate the anniversary of the historic win.

They even grabbed a cheeky selfie with the hat-trick hero.

66Winners promises to offer 'a wide range of events, competitions and awards celebrating the past, present and future of English football' in the next year.

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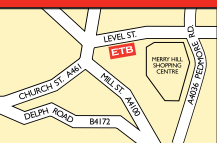
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Restaurant could bring 80 jobs if proposals approved

THE developer behind plans for a restaurant, creating 80 jobs, at Oldbury's Birchley Island says work could begin next year if plans are approved.

St Modwen has unveiled multi-million pound proposals for a restaurant operated by national chain Greene King.

The site, between the island and the slip road for Junction 2 of the M5, has previously been earmarked for a hotel and casino but both schemes never got off the ground. The restaurant would be part of Greene King's Farmhouse Inn brand and create 80 full-time and part-time jobs.

One in four drivers were over the limit

ONE in four drivers stopped by police during a summer blitz were driving over the legal alcohol limit.

Throughout June, West Midlands Police and the Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG) ran roadside checkpoints and patrolled in unmarked vehicles to catch offenders, as well as acting on tip-offs.

In total 211 people were arrested, of which 129 have been charged, and 30 are on bail pending results of blood samples.

Officers from the CMPG carried out 259 breath tests during the month, resulting in 69 drink-drive arrests, including seven who'd been involved in collisions.

CMPG Chief Inspector Jed White said: "More than a quarter of all the motorists my officers stopped were found over the legal alcohol limit, it shows we're targeting the right people and not unfairly inconveniencing innocent motorists."

If planning permission is granted by Sandwell Council, construction will get under way in 2016.

Ian Romano, senior development surveyor at St. Modwen, said: "A new restaurant will be a great addition to the current offer at Birchley Island, and will cater for motorists, shoppers and workers in the area."

Richard Lewis, managing director for Farmhouse Inns, said: "We are excited to be bringing forward plans for a family-friendly Farmhouse Inn on Birchley Island."

"Usually popular with business users and families, Farmhouse Inns are good value restaurants known for daily carveries, home-made cakes, cask ales and children's activity play areas."

"As well as creating new local jobs, the restaurant would provide customers with a greater choice of where to dine, so we hope that these plans will be warmly welcomed by the community."

The scheme also includes a car park with 95 spaces. The 13,811 sq ft restaurant will have two entrances to accommodate those visiting to dine and those using only the bar. The building will have a central patio for outdoor dining, which will be enclosed by a landscaped area with high shrubs, separating it from the car park.

£1.8m animal hospital is opened



Joanne Malin and her dog Maisy at the opening of the PDSA hospital in Oldbury

TV presenter Joanne Malin and her four-legged pooch Maisy helped to unveil a new £1.8 million PDSA Pet Hospital in Oldbury.

The veterinary centre on St Matthew's Road has replaced the charity's old site on Hagley Road West, Quinton.

The plush hospital has a critical care ward, operating theatre and the latest diagnostic and surgical equipment.

PDSA's chairman, John Smith, said the facilities will equip vets with all they need to treat animals in need.

He said: "It is wonderful to be able to open practices that offer the latest equipment to enable us to provide the best possible care for lots of animals."

"Each practice we build we try to make better. This one has got a lot of features in that will make it easier for vets and safer for the animals."

"We are extremely thankful to our supporters as this would not have happened without them and their fundraising."

"All donations - big or small have been appreciated."

The building and equipment have been funded entirely by PDSA supporters and donations from the public.

It has been called The Marian and Christina Ionescu Centre of Surgical Excellence following generous donations to the building costs and operating theatre. The premises will also be used for training.

Mr Smith added: "We are fortunate to have excellent training facilities here too for vets of the future. Trainees will be able to look from behind glass partitions in the theatre."

Phone box millionaire is guest at ball

A BLACK Country charity is throwing a ball to mark 140 years of support for people with sight loss.

Beacon is hosting the glamorous black tie event on October 9 at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, with guest speaker Dr Stephen Fear, the 'phone box millionaire'.

He started his commercial oven cleaning company aged 15, achieving his first major business deal using a now-famous red telephone box on the council estate in Bristol where he grew up.

Beacon's chief executive Arwyn Jones said: "We are thrilled to welcome a speaker of Stephen Fear's calibre to our event and look forward to hearing about his unique approach to social enterprise. This is particularly relevant to our organisation as we seek innovative ways to raise the vital funding needed to deliver life-changing services to people coping with sight loss across our region."

Kelly Vickers, Beacon's fundraising and event officer, said: "The 140th anniversary of the charity is such an important milestone that we wanted a special event to mark the occasion. Our 'Hollywood Ball' will be a glittering evening."

Tickets cost £30 per person, including a three-course meal and welcome drink, and can be purchased from www.beaconvision.org

Nature reserve blaze is suspected arson

ARSONISTS are believed to be responsible for a large grass fire which took hold at a nature reserve in the Black Country.

Firefighters from Dudley were called to Sheepwash Local Nature Reserve near Tipton last week.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman, Matthew Smith, said there were three areas of grassland on fire across an area of approximately 500 square metres.

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Simples — meerkat selfie for art contest



Because I'm snappy – this mischievous meerkat gets to grips with an old camera at West Midlands Safari Park

ANIMALS at West Midlands Safari Park were given the old cameras to explore as part of a launch of a new competition.

The park is giving visitors the chance to capture the cutest animals.

The attraction is launching a search for Safari Photographer of the Year and Safari Artist of the Year.

It says it will display the best images from the park, and are especially looking for cute or funny images. There are also special categories for children.

Competition organiser and judge Caroline Richards said: "This is the first time that we have organised this

kind of competition. In the past we have encouraged visitors to send us their best photo entries for our annual calendar competition. Last year alone saw well more than 700 entries.

Creative

"There are some incredibly talented people around and we are sure that it gives us as much pleasure to judge as it gives people the pleasure to enter."

"We are in mid-summer, which seems to bring out the very best creative side in visitors."

"We feel sure that we will be happily inundated with entries for both com-

petitions during the next few months."

The competitions are free to enter.

All of the photo entries need to have been taken at West Midlands Safari Park during 2014 or 2015 and art entries must be of an animal that is part of the wildlife collection at the park near Bewdley.

The works of art selected by the judges will also be included in an exhibition being held at West Midlands Safari Park in the new year.

For further details visit the attractions website www.wmsp.co.uk where details about opening hours and events are also available.



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Veteran rocker not going to fade away

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

VETERAN rocker Neil Young is opting to burn rather than fade away and is full of righteous rage and indignation on his 36th album *The Monsanto Years*.

Global corporations, particularly the one in the title, come in for fierce condemnation over their impact on farmers and the planet in a series of songs linked by his ecological concerns.

In LA band Promise of the Real, led by Willie Nelson's sons Lukas and Micah, he has got a backing band with the left to make a blistering riffing cacophony to match his ire, on a par with his mighty backing band of yesteryear Crazy Horse.

Some songs suffer because the message has come before the music, with lyrics squeezed in to make his point, and slip into slogans — 'Too big to fail, too rich for jail' — on *Big Box*. But it is exhilarating to hear Young sounding so focussed and furious.

Classic

The stomping *Workin' Man* is a highlight, as is *People Want to Hear About Love*, on which he states his case for protest. Meanwhile, *Wolf Moon* adds another lunar-themed soothing ballad in the style of his classic *Harvest Moon*.

The album is available with a 76-minute DVD containing in-studio performances and behind the scenes footage from the making of the album.

Tame Impala, AKA Aussie psych pop sensation Kevin Parker, largely switches guitars for synths on his third album *Currents*.

The songs still have Tame Impala hallmarks, such as wistful melancholy, sudden changes of gear and phasing, but Parker brings in elements of fried funk, a few expletives and synth pop akin to classic OMD or, more contemporary, Daft Punk. Parker's vocals are



Exhilarating to hear Neil Young so focussed and furious on *The Monsanto Years*

to the fore, often delivered as a sweet falsetto but *Currents* has bitter elements befitting a break-up album. He also displays a more assured commercial touch, with *Cause I'm A Man* being one of the best pop tracks of the year, the best record Justin Timberlake should have made.

A treasure trove for those interested in the beginnings of UK folk-rock, the Grapefruit label's three CD set *Dust On The Nettle* (63 tracks clocking in at just under four hours) is, as its subtitle says, *A Journey through the British Underground Folk Scene 1967-72*. These were exciting times when the hippy scene overlapped with the folk clubs and festivals. Maybe potent substances were sampled as the finger-in-the-ear folk scene took on psychedelical and world music influences, as the singer-songwriter scene was blooming.

There are some familiar names here including Fairport Convention, Joan Armatrading, The Pentangle, recently rediscovered Vashti Bunyan and Marc Bolan's *Tyrannosaurus Rex* in pre-glam rock days. But the joy comes in dis-

covering some choice rarities, several never released before.

Serious seekers for obscure rock 'n' roll and Francophile music fans will find lots of Gallic delights on Various Artists album *Vive Le Rock 'n' Roll: The Unruly World of French Rock 'n' Roll 1956 to 1962*. Put together by RPM International, a label dedicated to seeking out rare and iconic non-Anglo music, this 22-track set has lots of treats.

Highlights include *Twist A Saint-Tropez* and *Le Jour J* by Les Chats Sauvages, *Baby Let's Play House* and *Sweet Little Sixteen* by adopted English-American Vince Taylor and his Play Boys, garage rocker *Oh Les Filles!* by Les Pingouins, the bonkers *Gong-Gong* by Danyel Gerard, and the accordion-propelled *Rock Rock* by Charles Verstraete. The 1956 track *Rock and Roll Mops* by Henry Cording and his Original Rock and Roll Boys, co-written by Michel Legrand, lays claim to being France's first rock record. A minus point is that the greatest of all French rockers, Johnny Hallyday, is represented by two poor quality recordings.

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Poppies inspire art show at glass centre



Enamel artist Carol Griffin is pictured with some of her work on show at The Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge

A POPPY-INSPIRED collection of art-work has gone on display at The Ruskin Glass Centre to mark Amblecote's first In Bloom competition entry.

Artists from the Wollaston Road glass centre produced pieces relating to the competition's poppy theme, ranging from textile to enamel designs.

Amblecote in Bloom was the idea of Councillor Christine Perks.

Carole Griffin, chairman of the Ruskin Craft Association who designed an enamel piece for the exhibition, said: "Our ideas came from Christine's initiative with this being the first Amblecote In Bloom competition entry. The symbol and theme of the competition is a poppy, so our artists at the glass centre each decided to do a piece.

"There were 10 glass pieces but we also had wood, enamel, soap and textile designs as well as silver and resin jewellery and artwork cards.

"They were all put in a display cabinet and looked really impressive.

"We had three pieces given to us by artists from the Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford too."

Creative woodwork artist Jamie Hubbard carved a poppy out of wood. The Natural Soapworks produced a poppy in soap and glass artist Vic Bamforth designed a chunky glass globe entitled 'field of poppies'.

Mr Bamforth combines his painting and glass-blowing skills to create vibrantly colourful, humorous, one-off glass art pieces which are exhibited and collected internationally. His work is also held in international public collections including Corning Museum of Glass in New York.

Following a £1.4 million refurbishment, The Ruskin Glass Centre is home to a wide array of glass crafts and complementary trade. The display is at the museum until August 22.

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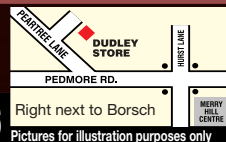
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An Express & Star promotional film dating back to 1961



An E&S reader stops to take in the news in 1961



Archive footage showing West Bromwich Albion in action



A young Bobby Robson interviewed on camera



Cannock Wood Colliery closes down in 1973

Film footage of old brings region to life

A COLLECTION of historic films released online offers a fascinating insight into the Black Country's heritage.

The project reveals hidden histories and forgotten stories of people and places from the region.

Britain on Film has been launched by the British Film Institute and aims to share films from the past to a new contemporary audience.

The vintage videos were all held in a regional collection – but have been released to share them with a wider audience.

Some of the highlights from the Black Country films include a 1961 promotional film about the Express & Star and a 1963 portrait of West Bromwich Albion, with Bobby Robson being interviewed.

There is also a video from Wolverhampton in 1970s which documents the upheaval in the city as Georgian and Victorian shops

MEMORY LANE

By David Cosgrove

made way for flats. The Media Archive for Central England (MACE) has supported the BFI and Britain on Film in the project.

Phil Leach, senior curator at MACE, said: "It's great to be able to preserve these old videos but we also need to be getting things out there for the public to see."

"If you put something online people can watch it again and again, any time. This is a really good way of getting films out there."

Mr Leach said one of his highlights from the Black Country was an 80-year-old film of King George V's Silver Jubilee, which saw a pageant put on at Molineux. There is also a 1904 film showing Wolves playing away at Preston.

The online BFI Player gives everybody in the UK free access to thousands of film and TV titles.

By 2017 10,000 film and TV titles from 1895 to the present day will be digitised.

Newsreels, advertisements, home movies, forgotten TV shows, and films by government departments all offer surprising insights into British life in the 20th century. BFI head curator Robin Baker said: "For 120 years cameras have captured almost every aspect of life in the UK on film, but too often these have been inaccessible to all but the most determined researchers."

"Britain on Film is transforming access to films from the UK's archives and making them available, no matter where you live."

Heather Stewart, BFI creative director, said: "It's vital the UK's film and TV archives – Britain's national collection – can be enjoyed by everyone."

"We have now created a way for the British public to discover and engage with their heritage like never before."



The final Civic Sunday parade in Bilston in 1965



View looking up Victoria Street, Wolverhampton in the 1930s

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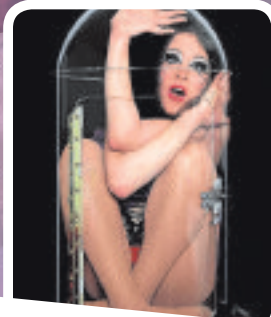
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National Youth Orchestra
Page 21



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See Page 21



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 Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The Tubes



Thursday, 7.30pm
 Robin 2, Bilston

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 Call 0844 870 0000

Dr Feelgood
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 B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

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 B15 1DA. Call 0121 633 1520

Speakeasy
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 Sat at 5pm - 6am, £3 - £4
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 Birmingham, B3 3HJ.
 Call 0121 212 0211

Guilty Pleasures
 Sun at 9pm - 3am, Free
 Popworld, Wolverhampton,
 WV1 1RD.
 Call 01902 424471

Student Social
 Tue at 10.30pm - 3am, Free
 Couture & Noir-et-Blanc,
 Stafford, ST16 2EZ.
 Call 01785 244755

Weekends at The Flapper
 Fri - Sat at 8pm - 1am, Sat - Sun
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 The Flapper, Kingston Row, Birmingham,
 B1 2NU.
 Call 0121 236 2421

Red Velvet
 Sat at 10pm - 3am, £4 - £5
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 Call 01785 244755

Couture Superclub - Saturdays
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 Stafford, ST16 2EZ.
 Call 01785 244755

Saturday Nights at Subside
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 Tue at 10.30pm - 3am, Free
 Couture & Noir-et-Blanc,
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Fridays at Vogue
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 Call 01922 614300

Billionaires Vogue
 Sun at - 6am,
 Vogue, Walsall, WS1 1PL.
 Call 01922 614300

Over 30s Club Night
 Fri at 8pm,
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ART GALLERIES

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 Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am
 - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at
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 Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
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 Call 0121 303 1966

Artist Development West Midlands
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -
 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at
 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm,
 Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am
 - 5pm, Free
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 WS2 8LG.
 Call 01922 654400

Group Occupation III & Group Occupation North/West
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -
 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon
 at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm,
 Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall,
 WS2 8LG.
 Call 01922 654400

Animal Architecture
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 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at
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 Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
 WV1 1DU.
 Call 01902 552055

Animal Architecture
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 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at
 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm,
 Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
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 Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -
 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon
 at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am -
 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at
 10am - 5pm, £3 - £17
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Expert-Led Tour Of Love Is Enough: Guided Tour
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 Call 0121 303 1966

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 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon
 at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm,
 Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 The New Art Gallery Walsall,
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 Call 01922 654400

Animal Architecture
 Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am -
 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at
 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm,
 Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
 Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
 WV1 1DU.
 Call 01902 552055

FAMILY EVENTS

Birds Of Prey Display
 Sun at 2pm - 4pm,
 Haden Hill House Museum,
 Cradley Heath, B64 7JU.
 Call 01384 569444

Kite Flying: Workshop
 Fri at 11am - 2pm, £2
 Kinver Edge and the Rock
 Houses, DY7 6DL.
 Call 01384 872553

Peg Plane Magnets: Workshop (Ages 6-11)
 Mon at 11.30am - 3.30pm, Tue
 at 11.30am - 3.30pm, Wed
 at 11.30am - 3.30pm, Thu at
 11.30am - 3.30pm, £2
 Royal Air Force Museum,
 Cosford, TF11 8UP.
 Call 0

Young musicians show their mettle



The Nation Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in action before they tackle Mahler at Birmingham Symphony Hall

THE National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain returns to Birmingham for its annual concert as part of its most ambitious summer to date.

Under the baton of Sir Mark Elder, of the Halle Orchestra, the teenagers perform Mahler's epic Symphony No 9 alongside the world premiere performances of Re-greening by Tansy Davies, written especially for NYOGB, at the city's Symphony Hall tomorrow evening (Friday).

The orchestra's young composers will be presenting a free performance of some of their works at the Symphony Hall foyer at 6pm, before the 7.30pm concert. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

Following a two-week residency in Birmingham, the orchestra travels to Aldeburgh, the BBC Proms and Berlin. NYOGB's 14 to 19-year-old members are drawn from across the UK and this year nine of the 163 talented

teens hail from the West Midlands. Among them are double bassists Harry Atkinson (Birmingham) and Patrick Phillip (Bridgnorth), violinists Philip Edwards (Stafford) and Madeleine Dawson (B'ham), cellists Joshua Mountford (B'north) and Dominic Marten (B'ham).

Activities in Birmingham included ensembles taking music to the streets and workshops at the University of Birmingham.

Miss is in a bottle...

FREAKS and feathers will surround you at the Carnival of the Bizarre, prepare to be shocked and amazed by a blend of weird variety acts and burlesque from the same people who stunned audiences — and the Britain's Got Talent judges — with notorious touring show The Circus of Horrors.

At Bilston's Robin 2 venue tonight (Thursday) the audience will get close up and personal with some truly bizarre, and sometimes horrifying, performers.

Led by Circus of Horrors undead Ringmaster Doktor Haze, the shows cast of freaky characters can include Captain Dan, the demon dwarf; The Mongolian Laughing Boy; the Human Pincushion; the sword swallowing Hannibal Helmutro.

The circus element comes with performers including the girl in the bottle and Anastasia IV the blade walker, fire whirlwind acrobatics from the Voodoo Warriors and a bevy of burlesque beauties. Plus a multitude of shocks and surprises from the most bizarre acts around.

Advance tickets cost £15 or £16 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or see the www.therobin.co.uk website.

Other gigs coming up at the Mount Pleasant venue include: tomorrow, Alice Cooper tribute act Gallus Cooper with Scorpions tribute Scopyons; Saturday, U2-2 recreate Bono and co circa The Joshua Tree; Sunday, Monsters of Rock featuring Black Sabbath tribute Sabbotage; Thursday, veteran San Francisco satirical rockers The Tubes, featuring singer Fee Waybill, make a rare UK appearance.



Prepare to be shocked and amazed

Dancer to make her last UK performance

A WORLD famous dancer will return to Birmingham Hippodrome for her last ever UK performance.

Sylvie Guillem will be performing Life in Progress, featuring existing and new works by choreographers who have influenced her career. Performances on September 8 and 9 will be the last by the former star of the Paris Opera Ballet and The Royal Ballet in Britain.

Promoted to the rank of 'Etoile' by Rudolf Nureyev at the age of 19, the French dancer has decided to retire at the age of 50. Her very final performance will be in Japan in December. See www.birminghamhippodrome.co.uk or call 0844 338 5000.

Punk's not dead, at least for a week

IT'S a punk rock week ahead in Birmingham and the Black Country.

Slam Dunk favourites Don Broco, whose new album Automatic comes out tomorrow, have sold out their gig at Birmingham Institute's Temple venue on Wednesday.

The Digbeth venue hosts San Francisco punk veterans The Avengers on Monday and Aussie hardcore outfit Break Even on Thursday (August 13). That's the same night US outfits A Wilhelm Scream play 02 Academy 3, Teenage Bottlerocket the Slade Rooms, and White Punks On Dope veterans The Tubes play Bilston's Robin 2.

Influential art of Japan on display

AN exhibition at Wolverhampton Art Gallery features images created by 19th century Japanese artist Utagawa Hiroshige.

Hiroshige's Japan: 53 Stations of the Tokaido Road feature a collection of landscapes that the artist was commissioned to create on the new road between the old capital Kyoto and Edo, which became Tokyo.

The woodblock prints, on display at the Lichfield Street gallery until November 21, had an influence on the Impressionists and even today's Manga comic art. It also the first touring exhibition to come to Wolverhampton from Oxford's prestigious Ashmolean Museum.

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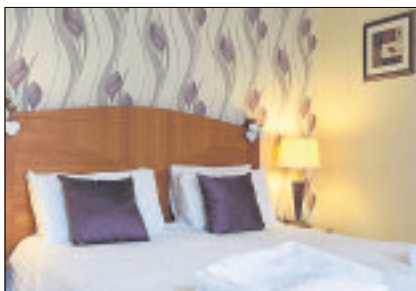
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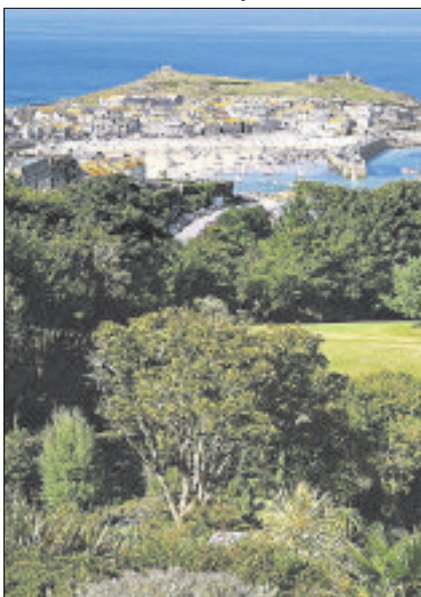
At all times of day the coastal town looks welcoming



The bedroom at the Tregenna Castle Estate



St Ives blends traditional and modern seaside attractions well



The beautiful view of the Cornish town of St Ives

A beautiful mix of old and new – St Ives welcomes you

REST, relaxation and recuperation.

It's why most go on holiday, is it not? Yes, we all love a bit of action on our breaks every now and then. A sense of fun and adventure. Trying new things.

But, sometimes, just turning the mobile phone off, ignoring the emails and cutting off the outside world is the perfect bit of therapy to recharge those batteries.

In this case, St Ives should be highly considered. A beautiful mix of old and new, it throws its arms open to welcome you in.

For the perfect overview of its quaint little harbour, then the Tregenna Castle Estate is the perfect place to base your visit.

The bay-view rooms offer spectacular views down over the shops, bars and ice-cream parlours that line the old harbour. You can also plan excursions by foot with

By Leigh Sanders

views down to the beach offering a host of options to choose between. But you don't even have to head down to the sand yet. There's plenty to do just where you are.

Tired from your long journey down? First of all, head straight for the leisure complex attached to the back of the hotel to unwind.

The indoor heated pool and spa offer somewhere relaxed for families to spend some quality time. There is also a sauna and steam room and a gym.

Squash courts are also available, and the tennis courts out front are a real treat. There are woodland walks and walled gardens to enjoy. But be prepared to tackle some hills. The journey up some of them won't be the most relaxing part of your stay. But when you are ready to hit the town then just walk straight down the hill

and let gravity guide you in. You hit Porthminster beach, a calm expanse of golden softness ideal for families. It has all the facilities you would require, and is a short walk from the harbour itself.

Activity

This is still a working port, and you can watch lazily as the fishermen bring in the latest catches you know will be adorning the array of seafood restaurants for you to sample later on. Most of the activity is to be found here, particularly for youngsters. They will want to head straight to Patsea Arcadia – harbour amusements full of fun.

While here, Kudos simply has to be visited. Situated on Fore Street, it is a real Aladdin's cave chocked from floor to ceiling with wonderfully unique items the owner has sourced from trusted collectors around

the world. Once the town has been scoured it is worth heading up towards what is known as The Island. A grassy hill behind the harbour, it can be accessed via a series of narrow back streets that house a number of independent art galleries.

Once ascended, you will find the smallest of chapels providing views that will amaze. If you are lucky enough, a pod of dolphins will swim past too to welcome you.

When you have done as much or as little exploring as you like it is time to head back down in to town and sample some of that food. If you like fish and are staying at the Tregenna, then it is worth one last trek back to base to sample The Brasserie.

Exceptional service and delightful food will leave you stuffed and ready for sleep, but not before visiting the hotel bar next door and settling into one of the luxurious sofas adorning the entrance hall.

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CHOICE



Rufus Hound

The Cube: Celebrity Special (ITV, 8pm) Phillip Schofield invites comedians Rob Beckett and Rufus Hound to take part in a charity edition of the nerve-racking game show. Both are challenged to complete up to seven seemingly simple tasks of skill, dexterity, reaction, wit and wisdom within the confines of a large transparent cube. But each celebrity has only nine lives – and with each one they lose, the pressure mounts to win the jackpot of £250,000 for their chosen causes. Phillip Schofield is on hand to provide words of encouragement. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Continent. **4.00** Final Score. **5.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.15 **Regional Programme.**

6.25 **Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.** (1984) The intrepid archaeologist, with his young sidekick and a nightclub singer in tow, is stranded in India, where he takes on a mission to recover magical sacred stones from the hands of an evil cult engaged in human sacrifice and child slavery. Steven Spielberg's action adventure, starring Harrison Ford, Kate Capshaw, Ke Huy Quan and Amrish Puri.

8.15 **The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a five-star lottery. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts.

9.10 **Casualty.** Following an accident in his truck, Dylan's father is admitted to the Emergency Department. It is clear he and his son are not on good terms, and Dylan takes out his anger and frustration on Dervla, causing her to run away. Louis steals Tess's crucifix so he can get money for drugs, but Charlie tracks him down and, realising he has developed deep vein thrombosis, takes him to the hospital. Meanwhile, Jacob's romantic side is revealed and Lily tells Ethan go.

10.00 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.20 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Swansea City at Stamford Bridge and Bournemouth v Aston Villa at Dean Court.

11.40 **Film: Disturbia.** (2007) Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf.

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 **Film: Gunga Din.** (1939) **8.25** **Film: Stick It.** (2006) **10.00** Animal Park. (R) **11.00** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **11.30** More Creatures Great and Small. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **2.30** Flog It! (R) **3.30** Live Swimming: World Championships. Day seven from Kazan Arena in Russia. **5.30** Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth. (R)

6.30 **Gardeners' World.** With the holiday season in full swing, Monty Don shares some timely tips on how to make sure gardens do not suffer while their owners are away. (R)

7.00 **Proms Extra.** Katie Derham is joined by Kiri Te Kanawa, Peter Maxwell Davies and Martin James Bartlett to appraise last week's performances, including the Late Night Sinatra Prom.

7.40 **Edwardian Farm.** Alex Langlands, Peter Ginn and Ruth Goodman put on a party when a paddle-steamer docks at the Morwellham Quay, bringing a group of tourists to the Tamar Valley. (R)

8.40 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring gives the platoon a lecture in communications and his men have an opportunity to put what they have learnt into action when an enemy aircraft ditches in a reservoir. (R)

9.10 **Film: The Duchess.** (2008) Fact-based period drama, chronicling the life of Georgiana Spencer who became Duchess of Devonshire in 1774 at the age of 17. Adored by the public for her extravagant lifestyle, Spencer endured a troubled marriage and was eventually driven into the arms of Charles Grey, a senior Whig politician. Starring Keira Knightley, Ralph Fiennes, Dominic Cooper and Charlotte Rampling.

10.50 **The Many Faces of Helen Mirren.** A profile of the actress, who became a household name through her portrayal of DCI Jane Tennison in Prime Suspect and won an Oscar for playing Elizabeth II in The Queen. (R)

11.55 **Film: Last Orders.** (2001) Four men visit Margaret to scatter a friend's ashes and reminisce about their shared experiences over the last six decades. Drama, with Michael Caine.

1.35 **Film: Brighton Rock.** (2010) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.35** Celebrity Squares. (R) **3.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.15** Catchphrase. (R) **6.00** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.15** **ITV News;** Weather. **6.30** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of viewers' videos, featuring a squirrel stealing an iPhone and a fox attacking a family. (R)

7.00 **Keep It in the Family.** New series. Bradley Walsh hosts the game show in which families go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. A line-up of celebrities each hold the clue to a prize, and it's up to the contestants to determine the fate of their chosen box as they decide whether to swap, drop or keep it in the family. This week the Nanas are back and talented kids perform from a well-known musical.

8.00 **The Cube: Celebrity Special.** Comedians Rob Beckett and Rufus Hound take on The Cube in an attempt to win a jackpot of £250,000 for charity. Last in the series.

9.00 **Film: The Bourne Identity.** (2002) A fishing boat crew plucks a man out of the sea with two bullet wounds in his back and a safe-deposit number sewn into his skin – but absolutely no memory of who he is or how he got there. In the search for his true identity, he is pursued by assassins – but his skill at evading them suggests his own past is far from straightforward. Thriller, starring Matt Damon, Franka Potente, Chris Cooper, Clive Owen and Brian Cox.

11.10 **ITV News;** Weather.

11.25 **The Chase.** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Ejector Seat. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** Tri Liverpool. **7.35** FIM Superbike World Championship. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.45** The Simpsons. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.50** The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.50** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot. Haydock Park and Newmarket. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 **Come Dine with Me.** On the final night in Darlington, Co Durham, Audra plans to win over her guests with genuine Italian cuisine followed by a mysterious tramsini, which is not to everyone's liking. (R)

6.40 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Homes by the Sea.** Architectural designer Charlie Luxton explores coastal properties in Northumberland, beginning in the fishing village of Craster, where he visits Craster Tower – an 18th-century Georgian mansion – before travelling to Whitley Bay to a seafood semi-detached property. He also explores a modern-build overlooking Druridge Bay and a transformed farmstead near Bamburgh.

8.00 **Walking Through History: King John's Ruin – Peak District.** On a walk across the medieval monarch's stamping grounds of Sherwood Forest and the Peak District, Tony Robinson discovers King John was a man plagued by crises. (R)

9.00 **Film: The A-Team.** (2010) Four soldiers are sent on a top-secret mission in Iraq that results in them being imprisoned for a crime they did not commit. When they learn the culprit is trying to sell equipment for producing fake currency, they break out of prison to find both him and evidence of their innocence. Action adventure based on the 1980s TV series, with Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper, Sharlto Copley and Quinton Rampage Jackson.

11.25 **Film: The Fighter.** (2010) Fact-based drama. With Mark Wahlberg and an Oscar-winning Christian Bale.

1.30 The Last Leg. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** You Deserve This House. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.35** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.00** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.55** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.55** **Film: Cahill, US Marshal.** (1973) Western, starring John Wayne. **2.55** **Film: Rio Lobo.** (1970) Howard Hawks' Western, with John Wayne and Jorge Rivero. **5.05** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)

6.05 **Can't Pay? Benefits Special.** A special edition of the documentary series exploring the work of High Court enforcement agents focusing specifically on moments in which they are called to recover homes, goods and cash from the people often considered the most vulnerable in British society. Among the cases highlighted are those of a single mother struggling with debts totaling more than £45,000, an aggressive debtor recovering from a brain tumour who refuses to pay his dues, and a hard-working young nurse who is desperately seeking a home for her young family, but is facing opposition from landlords who are not keen to let their properties to people dependent on housing benefits. (R)

7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Highlights of the third day's play in the Fourth Ashes Test at Trent Bridge, a venue at which the tourists had not tasted victory for 14 years.

7.55 **5 News Weekend.**

8.00 **Killer Landslides.** Exploring natural disasters and some of the biggest and slips ever recorded, including the deadly landslide in Oso, Washington in March 2014 which slammed into the neighbourhood.

9.00 **Football League Tonight.** New series. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's opening round of matches, including Sheffield Wednesday v Bristol City and Leeds United v Burnley in the Championship, as well as all the goals from League One and League Two. Plus, a round-up of the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers.

10.25 **The Best of Bad TV.** The series revisiting spectacular small-screen gaffes continues. (R)

11.50 **Access.** (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Transporter: The Series. **4.00** Police Interceptors. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **7.15** Don't Tell the Bride **8.15** **Film: StreetDance 2** (2012) **9.35** Live at the Apollo **10.35** Russell Howard's Good News **11.05** Family Guy **1.20** People Just Do Nothing **1.50** Russell Howard's Good News **2.20** Crims **3.45** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano **8.00** Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark **9.00** The Young Montalbano **10.55** The Irish Rock Story: A Tale of Two Cities **11.55** Irish Rock at the BBC **12.55** Sings the Great American Songbook **1.55** Lost Land of the Volcano **2.55** Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark **3.55** Close

ITV2

11.35 Take Me Out **12.45** **Film: Dragonheart** (1996) **2.50** **Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed** (2004) **4.40** **Film: The Mummy Returns** (2001) **7.05** **Film: Jack and Jill** (2011) **9.00** **Film: The Shawshank Redemption** (1994) **11.50** **Film: The Matrix** (1999) **2.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

1.05 Agatha Christie's Marple **3.10** **Film: Mummy on the Buses** (1972) **5.00** **Film: Columbo: Now You See Him** (1976) **6.55** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.35** Wylfride **2.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4


1.55 **Film: Ice Cold in Alex** (1958) **4.35** British Superbike Championship Highlights **5.35** Storage Wars: New York **6.25** **Film: Live and Let Die** (1973) **9.00** **Film: Octopussy** (1983) **11.40** **Film: The Black Windmill** (1974) **1.50** I Want That Car **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

1.00 The Goldbergs **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film: Insidious** (2010) **11.05** Googlebox **12.40** Rude Tube **1.45** Virtually Famous **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.15** The Cleveland Show **3.55** Made in Chelsea Does Come Dine with Me **4.50** Revenge


Film4

11.00 Just Wright (2010) **1.00** Johnny English Reborn (2011) **3.10** Aliens in the Attic (2009) **4.55** The Iron Giant (1995) **6.35** Iron Man (2008) **9.00** Bridesmaids (2011) **11.25** Red Lights (2012) **1.40** Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011) **3.35** Close




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CHOICE



Anna Friel

Odyssey (BBC2, 9pm)
Odelle and Aslam leave the safe house and head to Algeria, while Luc remains behind, fearing their plan is doomed. While on the road, they receive devastating news from a radio report of Frank's attack on Shakir Khan. Diallo seeks revenge, but his actions leave his soldiers troubled. Bob edges ever closer to discovering the truth regarding Ruby's true identity, and Senator Darnell puts pressure on Harrison. Elsewhere, Peter makes a deal with the Societal Mining CEO as his marriage suffers, and Suzanne makes a new friend. Peter Facinelli, Anna Friel, Jake Robinson, Jim True-Frost, Sadie Sink and Omar Ghazaoui star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Flog It! (R) **2.00** Escape to the Continent. **3.00** Animal Odd Couples. (R) **4.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Earth's Natural Wonders: Living on the Edge. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. John Craven visits Llandudno, to see what has made it a beloved British holiday destination for over a century. He meets a former farmer who is restoring the town's Victorian pier, talks to conservationists on the hunt for a rare butterfly and visits the UK's oldest Punch and Judy show. Plus, a look back at some of the best summer holiday ideas featured on the show, including paddle boarding in Dorset and the 50th anniversary of the Peninnine Way. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate the complex and controversial stories surrounding the origins of supposedly valuable works of art from around the world, discovering how to identify the handwork of master forgers and revealing the bitter battles that occur in the seemingly genteel art world. (R) **9.00** Partners in Crime. Part three of three. Tuppence ponders the cryptic message she discovered in the Soho den, while Tommy is taken to a remote location by Brown's gang after his cover is blown, and forced to steal a secret file from Carter by threatening the life of his son. Tommy and Tuppence discover evidence that will prove Brown's identity, but it is taken from them by Julius. The couple face a race against time to unmask the evil mastermind and foil the assassination of a visiting American dignitary of incredible importance to the British government. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. **11.40** Film: The Lookout. (2007) **1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

7.00 The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.45** Countryfile. (R) **8.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Great British Menu. (R) **11.45** Great British Menu. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Film: A Distant Trumpet. (1984) **2.55** Two Tribes. **3.25** Live Swimming: World Championships. **5.30** The Olympic Journey: How Far, How Fast? **6.00** Hair. The four semi-finalists create styles inspired by nature, before they all take part in the Eliminator and have to carry out their first haircut – an A-line bob. (R) **6.30** Hair. Three competitors take part in the grand final, creating avant garde haircuts at a wedding fair and styling the hair of real brides on their big days. Last in the series. (R) **7.00** Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways. The historian examines how the expansion of the railways influenced working conditions, proved a valuable global export and even changed the way war was waged. Last in the series. (R) **8.00** Dragons' Den. A technology entrepreneur brings a sports car into the studio to demonstrate a security app, while a pair of hoteliers and a luxury chocolate company seek investment. **9.00** Odyssey. News of Frank's attack on Shakir Khan hits Odelle and Aslam hard, while Bob edges ever closer to discovering the truth and Senator Darnell puts pressure on Harrison. **9.45** The Javone Prince Show. More stand-up comedy and sketches, including a Real Talk report on Britain's latest street gang. Plus, Javone finds out what Omar really thinks of him. Last in the series. **10.15** Family Guy. Peter throws Jesus a birthday party. **10.35** Family Guy. Brian's estranged TV star son Dylan turns up in Quahog. **11.00** Family Guy. Peter forms a relationship with an elderly friend of his late mother. **11.20** Film: Up There. (2012) Premiere. A spirit charged with escorting the recently deceased to the afterlife ends up losing a soul somewhere in a seaside town. Comic fantasy, with Burn Gorman. **12.35** Film: Deceived. (1991) **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. (R) **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.35** Film: Columbus: Now You See Him. (1976) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.25** Film: Never Say Never Again. (1983) James Bond adventure, starring Sean Connery. **6.00** Off Their Rockers. More fearless senior citizens play pranks on the public, including one OAP who attempts escapology for the first time – while another fails his Zimmer-frame walking test. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Nature Nuts with Julian Clary. Julian swims with Britain's largest carnivorous mammal in the Farne Islands, helps to capture tawny owls and dormice on film, and investigates wildlife in his own home. **8.00** Midsomer Murders. When a pub landlady is crushed to death by a giant box during a magic show organised by famous illusionist Gideon Latimer, pathologist Kate discovers the cables had been deliberately sabotaged. Evangelising curate Andrew Maplin claims the tragedy is God's vengeance for the pagan traditions still held deep in Midsomer Oaks, but Barnaby and Nelson fear Gideon was the real target. Neil Dudgeon, Gwilym Lee and Tamzin Malletson star in the murder mystery, with Joe Absolom, Andrew-Lee Potts, Justin Salinger, Amanda Burton and Stephanie Leonidas. (R) **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.15** The Nation's Favourite 80s Number One. Looking at the 1980s – a defining decade in both pop and fashion. Features interviews with 80s icons such as Spandau Ballet and Madness. Zoe Ball narrates. (R) **11.45** Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Neil Morrissey. (R) **12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.00** British GT. **7.30** Army Road Races. **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** The Dambusters' Great Escape: Secret History. Dubbed "The Beast" by Winston Churchill, Tirpitz was Nazi Germany's most powerful battleship. Protected by an elite squadron of fighters, it was seen as invincible, but after 34 failed attempts to sink it, the RAF sent in the 617 "Dambusters" Squadron and 9 Squadron. In a raid in November 1944 they managed to slip through enemy defences and destroy Tirpitz. With eyewitness accounts from surviving RAF crew, one of the Luftwaffe fighter pilots and German sailors, this documentary tells this extraordinary story and offers new evidence to explain the mission's improbable success. (R) **8.00** Experimental. Tim Shaw and Buddy Munro experiment with water skiing behind a ferry, trying to outrace an underground train and attempting to keep hold of a high pressure hose. Last in the series. **9.00** Film: Life of Pi. (2012) Premiere. A writer interviews a man about the extraordinary events of his life. He describes his childhood in India, living in the zoo run by his father, and how the family and their animals were forced to relocate to Canada when he was a teenager. However, during the sea voyage, the ship sank and he was left adrift in a small boat with a ferocious tiger. Ang Lee's adventure based on Yann Martel's novel, starring Suraj Sharma. **11.30** Film: Broken City. (2013) A New York private eye hired to find out if the mayor's wife is having an affair discovers a web of political corruption. Crime thriller, with Mark Wahlberg. **1.25** Channel 4 Comedy Gala 2015: Best Bits. **2.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Double Your Vote for Half the Money. (R) **5.30** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.40** Chloë's Closet. (R) **6.55** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. **7.20** Little Princess. (R) **7.35** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.45** Zack and Quack. **8.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.35** LazyTown. (R) **9.00** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.05** Football League Tonight. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Film: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. (2009) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Hader. **3.10** Film: Getting Even with Dad. (1994) Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson. **5.20** Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. (2011) **6.55** 5 Weeks Weekend. **7.00** Cricket on 5. England v Australia. Action from the fourth day of the Fourth Ashes Test at Trent Bridge in Nottingham. The Aussies are looking for a first away Ashes series win since 2001, and the ovens may be good should they come away with victory here, as their last triumph on this ground also clinched that series 14 years ago. Eventual man of the series Ian Bell reached a century for the home side on this day of the Nottingham Test in 2013, before being caught by Brad Haddin off the bowling of Mitchell Starc for 109. Mark Nicholas presents and also provides commentary alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes. **8.00** Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones. Mac pulls over a car and finds a box packed with cannabis. Officers discover a look-up for stolen vehicles and a car thief rewires the rules of the road. (R) **9.00** Film: Takers. (2010) Premiere. Five bank robbers are reunited with an old partner in crime just out of prison, who presents them with a plan for a lucrative armoured car robbery. As the crooks arrange what will be their final heist, a determined police officer is closing in on them. Crime thriller, starring Paul Walker, Matt Dillon, Idris Elba, Hayden Christensen and Zoe Saldana. **11.10** Film: The Losers. (2010) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Under the Dome. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Film: The Mexican (2001) **10.55** Russell Howard's Good News **11.20** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **12.30** Family Guy **12.50** People Just Do Nothing **1.20** Don't Tell the Bride **2.20** The Unbreakables: Life and Love on Disability Campus **3.20** People Just Do Nothing **3.50** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **4.00** Close **BBC Four**
7.00 BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **8.30** Brushing Up On – British Towers **9.00** Atomic: Living in Dread and Promise: Storyville **10.10** The Sky at Night **10.40** Chalkie Davies: Rock Photographer **11.10** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **12.10** Friday Night at the Movies: Seth MacFarlane Sings Sinatra **1.30** Doris Day: Farlie Territory **2.30** Atomic: Living in Dread and Promise: Storyville **3.40** Close **ITV2**
2.35 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.25** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.15** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **9.00** Film: 21 Jump Street (2012) **11.10** Film: The Faculty (1998) **2.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
12.15 Film: Finding Neverland (2004) **2.20** Wycliffe **3.35** Bertie and Elizabeth **5.40** Inspector Morse **8.00** Hotel on the Clouds **9.00** Inside Aspray: Luxury by Royal Appointment **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** Northern Lights **11.35** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.30** Blue Murder **2.40** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship **6.05** BRD Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.05** Pawn Stars **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00** Film: A View to a Kill (1985) **11.45** Film: Village of the Damned (1995) **1.45** I Want That Car **2.45** Movies Now **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
4.30 Film: Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (2009) **6.35** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Rude Tube **10.00** Gogglebox **11.40** Tattoo Fixers **12.50** Film: Friday the 13th (2009) **2.40** Rules of Engagement **3.25** Hollyoaks **Film4**
11.00 The Mark of Zorro (1940) **1.00** Millions (2001) **2.55** My Neighbour Totoro (1988) **4.00** Dragonball Evolution (2009) **6.20** The Karate Kid (2010) **9.00** Bullet to the Head (2012) **10.45** The Rise (2012) **12.55** Ikiru (1952) **3.50** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Dangerous Company, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A successful businesswoman has a charmed life – a good career and a happy marriage – until one day things start to unravel. As she starts misplacing things, loses track of time and even fails to recognise her husband, it seems she has inherited the dementia that killed her mother – but it turns out something more sinister is at play, leaving her desperate to prove her sanity. Thriller, starring Alicia Leigh Willis, Rick Ravanello and Melissa Marty. (2015)

TUESDAY
The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, BBC1, 11.25pm
A doctor is caught molesting a patient and commits suicide, after which his wife has a miscarriage. She blames his victim for her losses and plans to get revenge, infiltrating the unsuspecting woman's house as a nanny and playing twisted mind games to destroy her life. Thriller, starring Rebecca De Mornay, Annabella Sciorra, Julianne Moore, Matt McCoy and Ernie Hudson. (1992)



Grosse Pointe Blank, Friday, BBC1, 11.35pm

WEDNESDAY
Black Widow, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Photojournalist Melanie becomes jealous when her wealthy male friend gets engaged. But as she tries to dig up some dirt on his fiancée, she realises her love rival may actually be a murderer, who has married a series of rich men and killed them to claim their money. Thriller, starring Elizabeth Berkley. (2008)

THURSDAY
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, BBC2, 12pm
A washed-up American football player tormented by the death of a friend faces a difficult reunion with his dying father. Drama, starring Paul Newman. (1958)

FRIDAY
Grosse Pointe Blank, BBC1, 11.35pm
A hitman takes the chance to combine his latest assassination job with a trip back to his home town for a school reunion. The occasion starts to get complicated when an old flame turns up and rekindles their lost romance – while a rival killer harasses him to join an assassins' union. Black comedy drama, starring John Cusack. (1997)

Jimmy faces a burning issue in the Highlands

What do Septoe and Son, Last of the Summer Wine, The Liver Birds, Up Pompeii, Till Death Do Us Part and Are You Being Served? have in common?

Well, in addition to being among some of the best-loved and most successful sitcoms in the BBC archives, they all started life as episodes of Comedy Playhouse.

The anthology, which aired between 1961 and 1975, featured one-off comedy pilots, with the best-received being turned into full series.

Of course, not every episode went on to be a fondly remembered classic – Shamrot, On the Knocker, or Barnaby Rudge and the Exploding Whoopee Cushion, anyone? – but the hit rate was high enough for the BBC to revive the format last year with three more pilots.

And now one of them, Miller's Mountain, has been renamed Mountain Goats and give a six-part run – and some may think that given the Comedy Playhouse track record, it's got a lot to live up.

Luckily, the signs are promising as

the new series does have a great cast in its favour, including Sharon Rooney, who is probably best known for her acclaimed performance as troubled Rae in E4's My Mad Fat Diary.

She's certainly enjoying her latest role, especially as it's provided her with a change of pace.

She told Radio Times: "Comedy has been nice to do because My Mad Fat Diary was quite emotional. I don't think I've ever laughed so much on a job. They gave us an outtake video and we're laughing on it the whole time."

Hopefully, the audience will be just as amused. For those who missed the pilot, the series is described by the BBC as "an energetic studio sitcom set around the antics of a ragtag group of Mountain Rescue volunteers. Set in the Highlands, the series takes us from pub to hillside as our ramshackle family try to save walkers, climbers, dogs and, most often, themselves."

In particular, it focuses on the young, enthusiastic, and more than a

little naïve Connor (Kevin Mains), who has just joined the team. He's learning under the supposedly watchful eye of Jimmy (Jimmy Chisholm), who is an old hand – although organisation is not his strong point.

Other characters include Bernie (Kathryn Howden), the team's head of operations, and Jules (Rooney), a no-nonsense barmaid – in fact, one of the most striking aspects of the pilot was that for a show about mountain rescue, a surprising amount of the action took place in the pub.

We're promised some location filming in the series proper, so we may get a better sense of the great outdoors.

In this first episode, Connor continues to learn the ropes, but his mum isn't particularly happy about his new career... and no wonder, given that Jimmy proves he can't really be trusted with his own safety after he burns his house down.

Is Connor's first rescue mission going to be finding a new home for his fellow rescuer?



Jimmy Chisholm (left) stars in Mountain Goats, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Flying to the Ends of the Earth Channel 4, 8pm

Arthur Williams travels to the deserts of northern Australia, the islands of the Coral Sea and the jungles of Papua New Guinea, where flying is the only way in and out. He first visits a couple running a cattle station almost as big as Wales, where helicopters round up thousands of cows in a risky aerial ballet, before flying on to meet the Turner family, who bought their own desert island in the Coral Sea in 1985. Finally, Arthur joins the flying missionaries of Papua, who brave perilous jungle airstrips to bring supplies.

Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild Channel 5, 9pm

The ever-affable adventurer's latest series draws to a close with a trip to French Polynesia in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, a place rarely explored by humans. But two people who love it there and knows it better than most is 47-year-old Brit Rick and his 33-year-old Slovenian girlfriend Jasna. Unlike previous participants in the series, Rick and Jasna don't live in a shack on dry land – they describe themselves as sea gypsies, who wander the ocean in a tiny sailing boat. Ben learns more about their lifestyle by finding out how to free-dive

to drop anchor, preserve the food their catch and how to make wine. He also gets up close and personal with some of the creatures who share the environment with Rick and Jasna.

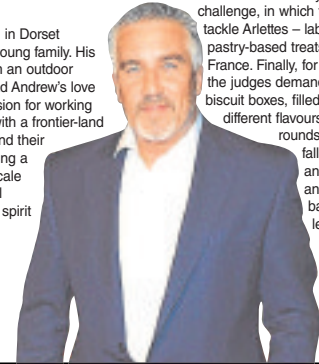
TUESDAY
Love Your Garden ITV, 8pm

Alan Titchmarsh and the team are in Dorset creating an exciting garden for a young family. His idea for the Drakes is to give them an outdoor space that reflects terminally ill dad Andrew's love of the great outdoors and his passion for working with wood. He opts for a garden with a frontier-land theme that Andrew, wife Rachel and their young son Lucas can enjoy, creating a prairie-inspired back yard of big scale rustic wood structures, agricultural motifs with craftsmanship and the spirit of adventure at its core.

WEDNESDAY
The Great British Bake Off BBC1, 8pm

With the cake week completed, and one of their number already eliminated from the competition, the 11 remaining home bakers

must now prove their skill at making biscuits, a task that can be deceptively difficult, and one that has undone many a confident Bake Off contestant in the past. The opening signature challenge this week is to create 24 biscotti, Italian delicacies that must be baked twice to deliver the perfect crisp crunch. Next is Paul Hollywood's technical challenge, in which the contestants tackle Arlettes – labour-intensive, puff pastry-based treats from southwest France. Finally, for the showstopper, the judges demand bespoke edible biscuit boxes, filled with 36 biscuits of different flavours. After all three rounds have concluded, it falls to Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins to announce which of the bakers will be asked to leave the tent.



Who Do You Think You Are?, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY
Who Do You Think You Are? BBC1, 9pm
Every time a new run of the genealogy

series is announced, viewers are left wondering who will be featured on it. After all this time and so many editions, some have suggested that the show must be running out of steam and that the celebrities will soon be Z-listers rather than bona fide stars. However, the programme's researchers keep coming up trumps – and if you need proof of that check out the list of luminaries set to grace this, the 12th season. Great British Bake Off star Paul Hollywood (who is the first celeb to appear), model Jerry Hall, Last Tango in Halifax cohorts Derek Jacobi and Anne Reid, polymath Mark Gatiss, actresses Frances de la Tour and Jane Seymour, choirmaster Gareth Malone, journalist Frank Gardner and presenter Anita Rani will all feature.

FRIDAY
Would I Lie to You? BBC1, 8.30pm
No sooner has she left The One Show sofa, the ubiquitous Alex Jones is back, this time on the panel show in which participants attempt to hoodwink their opponents with absurd facts and plausible lies about themselves. It's all in good fun, and host Rob Brydon and team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack know how to squeeze the maximum amount of laughter from each absurd suggestion.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

14	4	9	13	26	9	3	22	12	9	20	2
4		2		12		16			2	M	16
9		11	17	16	18	10	12	18	11		5
23	7	12			4			7	16	22	20
20		20		25	12	5	3			17	24
	19	8	23	12		17		25	24	8	7
				19		8		12			
20	24	16	19	8		20		1	4	25	15
14		10			16	14	4	16		4	10
4	22	17	18		4				11	8	16
9		16		20	24	8	5	9	6	6	
5		13		9		12			4		9
8	21	8	25	5	16	23	8		11	17	4

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

H	B	I	W	E	L	D	F	T	N	R	X	O
Q	C	V	Z	G	P	Y	M	S	J	K	A	U

1	14
2	M
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	I
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. After which one might steal cook's thunder? (5,2,3,3)

8. Low dance game (8)

9. Liquid container used in battle (4)

10. Healthier craftsman (6)

12. Laid roughly around similar points, and away from the coast (6)

14. Gas ten representatives (6)

16. The beginner must be good! (6)

18. Find fault with the fish (4)

20. Evidence of birds drinking? (8)

22. Irrelevant and not quite on target (6,3,4)

Down

1. 100 with a tendency towards charwoman's work (8)

2. Agree with the way it was despatched (6)

3. Mail for South American capital (4)

4. Horse is not all out (8)

5. Learnt about hire charge (6)

6. Mother is at home on the high seas (4)

11. Side rest, having been in opposition (8)

13. A job well done in the South of France? (4,4)

15. Serviette taken from relations after short sleep (6)

17. A measure of the book's contents? (6)

19. Help place a wager (4)

21. A chemist has the pain first (4)

1	2	3	4	5	6
7					
8				9	
10			11	12	13
14		15		16	17
18	19		20	21	
22					

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Shameful (13)

8. Clergyman (8)

9. Cylinder (4)

10. Progenitor (6)

12. Disregard (6)

14. Captain (6)

16. Dourly (6)

18. Applaud (4)

20. Power (8)

22. Loan (13)

Down

1. Lessen (8)

2. Flourish (6)

3. Item (4)

4. Protecting (8)

5. Box (6)

6. Facile (4)

11. Irritating (8)

13. Kinsman (8)

15. Spread out (6)

17. Set on fire (6)

19. Shortage (4)

21. Coarse (4)

Sudoku

		5		2		1		
	9		1		3		8	
3			5		7			2
	6	9		8			7	
1								9
	4		9	5				1
7			2		9	8		1
	3		7		4		2	
		4				7		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	5	8	2	3	6	9	1	4
3	9	2	8	1	4	7	6	5
6	4	1	7	5	9	3	2	8
9	1	7	5	2	3	4	8	6
5	8	6	9	4	7	1	3	2
4	2	3	6	8	1	5	7	9
8	7	5	3	9	2	6	4	1
2	6	4	1	7	5	8	9	3
1	3	9	4	6	8	2	5	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Fall; 8 Apostrophe; 9 Reappear; 10 Cast; 12 Patent; 14 Errors; 15 Missed; 17 Scorns; 18 Snow; 19 Currents; 21 Overlooked; 22 Step. Down: 2 Alteration; 3 Lamp; 4 Potent; 5 Starve; 6 Concerto; 7 Beat; 11 Springtime; 13 Eastward; 16 Doctor; 17 Strike; 18 Spot; 20 Ends. QUICK - Across: 1 Less; 8 Unavailing; 9 Pavement; 10 Used; 12 Divert; 14 Raider; 15 Insert; 17 Create; 18 Debt; 19 Overtune; 21 Accomplish; 22 Meek. Down: 2 At variance; 3 Sure; 4 Lament; 5 Banter; 6 Illumine; 7 Aged; 11 Electorate; 13 Erection; 16 Troupe; 17 Credit; 18 Deal; 20 Team.

Quiz

- In which Australian state is Ayers Rock?
- What is killer Albert De Salvo better known as?
- What are Limburger and Camembert?
- Who was the wife of Othello?
- Who created Winnie-the-Pooh?
- What Roman goddess is equivalent to the Greek Aphrodite?
- In which city is the Uffizi art gallery?
- What in France is the TGV?
- On what island was Napoleon first exiled?
- Which country produces Saab cars and missiles?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Belgian; 2 1929; 3 Ventriloquism;

4 Yoko Ono; 5 Astronomy; 6 Jethro Tull;

7 Little; 8 Spain; 9 Argentina; 10 Radio

detection and ranging.

Niner: ALONGSIDE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

981 gives a fish,
772 gives a second fish,
6899345 gives a third fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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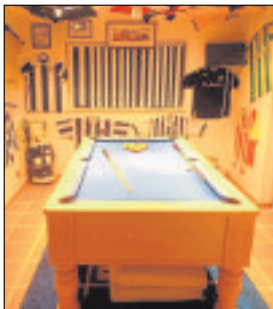
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Four-bedroom home has hot tub in the garden



A FOUR-BEDROOMED executive home at St Martins Drive, Tipton, includes a hot tub in the rear garden.

It is for sale through Skitts at £205,000 with no chain. It has an entrance hall, a lounge with a bay window, dining room with access to extended sitting room/games room, kitchen with a built-in electric oven, grill with gas hob, cooker hood, integrated fridge freezer, a utility room with a sink and a WC. Upstairs bedroom one has wardrobes and en-suite with shower, three further bedrooms (two with wardrobes), bathroom with spa bath. Contact Skitts on 0121 5202255 or visit www.search.skitts.net



Cottage theme at semi on edge of a village



SUPERBLY positioned and considerably enlarged, 47 Feiashill Road, Trysull, near Wolverhampton, is a traditional-style semi-detached residence in a lovely semi-rural setting on the outskirts of the village.

With a distinctive 'cottage'-themed interior, it is for sale through Bartlams at £259,950.

It has an entrance hall; lounge with an impressive fireplace; roomy open-plan kitchen/sitting room/dining room with a Belfast sink, beamed ceilings and oak flooring; utility/WC; three good-sized bedrooms; re-fitted bathroom; gas central heating; majority double glazing. Outside is an extensive gravelled driveway and parking area, garage, garden and vegetable plot adjoining fields. Contact Bartlams 01902 894141 or visit www.bartlams.co.uk



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NEW
HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£950 pcm+Fees
A superb opportunity to rent this very well presented 4 bedroom modern detached house in central Halesowen. The property comprises of a welcoming hallway with downstairs cloakroom with w.c., dining room, large separate lounge, study/playroom, kitchen with integrated appliances, 4 bedrooms, master with en-suite shower room. Family bathroom with shower, private rear garden, garage in separate block with driveway parking. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Grange Road£750 pcm+Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent this lovely traditional semi detached house in central Halesowen. This property comprises of: Front reception room, rear lounge, modern fitted kitchen, beautiful rear garden, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage. Available August. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Woodman Road£650 pcm+Fees
Hicks Hadley are delighted to bring to the market a deservingly spacious 3 bedroom mid terrace house in a very desirable quiet cul-de-sac in central Halesowen. Featuring 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, low maintenance rear garden, upstairs bathroom with shower, 3 good size bedrooms, gas central heating, land to front of property for use by tenant. Also the property benefits from a cellar that is heated and plenty of space for storage. A lovely family home! EPC: D



BARTLEY GREEN, Hunnington Close£625 pcm+Fees
Modern 3 bedroom mid-terrace house in quiet cul-de-sac, close to shops and transport. Large lounge with feature fireplace, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, private rear mature garden, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, white bathroom with 'P' bath and shower. Garage en bloc. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Wesley Close£595 pcm+Fees
Unfurnished mid news modern house undergoing a MAJOR REFURBISHMENT. This lovely family home comprises of: gas central heating, lounge/dining room, brand new fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, master with en-suite, family bathroom with shower, rear garden, close to local school and train station. Available September. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Cherry Street£595 pcm+Fees
A well presented 2 bed mid terrace property within walking distance to Halesowen, local bus routes and shops. This house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, downstairs bathroom with separate corner shower, 2 double bedrooms (1 with en-suite & 1 with w.c.), low maintenance rear garden, gas central heating and double glazed. Ideally located for a number of schools and Halesowen College. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane£575 pcm+Fees
A superb fully re-furnished traditional terrace house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room, 3 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 pcm+Fees
An extremely well maintained 2 bedroom semi detached property situated towards the head of a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station. Featuring a great living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, recently installed double glazing, driveway, gas central heating and easy to maintain rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Talbot Street£550 pcm+Fees
Step inside this fantastic 3 bedroom terrace property. Renovated throughout within the last 6 months to a very high standard, featuring 2 great size reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, fully fitted bathroom with electric shower, gas central heating system. EPC: E



DUDLEY, Highfield Court £525 pcm+Fees
A modern ground floor apartment which is double glazed windows and central heating. The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, fully fitted kitchen with integrated fridge freezer, 1 double and 1 single bedroom and allocated parking. EPC: B/C



HALESOWEN, Banners Lane£525 pcm+Fees
Unfurnished newly decorated throughout detached house comprising gas central heating, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway parking. EPC: B/C



CRADLEY HEATH, Clifton Street£520 pcm+Fees
Within walking distance to Old Hill shops and local train station. A well presented unfurnished modern mid terrace house benefits from gas central heating, lovely living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, 2 allocated parking spaces. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Hope Street £495 pcm+Fees
●FULLY REFURBISHED● A beautifully presented ground floor apartment heating under goes a full refurbishment in the last 12 months. Ideally located for Blackheath Town Centre, Rowley Regis Train Station and the M5 J2. Featuring a large spacious lounge, refitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, refitted bathroom with a shower. The apartment also has the added bonus of a large land gardens to front and rear, double glazing and gas central heated. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£475 pcm+Fees
A lovely unfurnished 2nd floor flat, close to local shops and transport links, briefly comprising of: spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating and allocated parking. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Hingley Court£460 pcm+Fees
Freshly redecorated and in the centre of Old Hill. This lovely 1st floor apartment features an open plan lounge/kitchen with a washer/dryer, 2 large double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, 1 allocated parking space behind electric gates. Not to be missed. Available now. EPC: B/C



ROWLEY REGIS, Oldbury Road£425 pcm+Fees
Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat above shop. Gas central heating, part double glazing, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, on road parking. Rent includes water rates. EPC: E



SELLY OAK, Shenley Fields Road£425 pcm+Fees
Two 2nd floor rooms within a house of multiple occupation. The location is within the area of Royal Orthopaedic, Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth hospitals as well as Birmingham University. The room benefits a fitted wardrobe and the rent includes the use of gas, electricity, water, SOMB broadband, Sky TV (including Sky Movies) and gardener.



STOURBRIDGE, Clifton Street£425 pcm+Fees
A stunning apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the 1st floor and features a great size lounge, new kitchen, new bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, double glazing and electric heating, on road parking. EPC: B/C



CRADLEY HEATH, Trinity Road£395 pcm+Fees
House share in a large Victorian semi-detached home. Large furnished double bedroom available in this lovely period house. kitchen, bathroom and large lounge are all shared facilities, wi-fi broadband. Rent to include all bills. 2 people sharing will be £100 pcm extra. Available now. EPC: E



SELLY OAK, Shenley Fields Road£375 pcm+Fees
A 1st floor room within a house of multiple occupation. The location is within the area of Royal Orthopaedic, Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth hospitals as well as Birmingham University. The room benefits a fitted wardrobe and the rent includes the use of gas, electricity, water, SOMB broadband, Sky TV (including Sky Movies) and gardener.



HALESOWEN, Lyde Green £375 pcm+Fees
Located on the popular Homer Hill Estate in Halesowen is this unfurnished 2nd floor flat, comprising of: Living room/fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal garden, garage, and residents parking. Available now. EPC: E

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WILLOW AVENUE, EDGBASTON

UNIQUE detached bungalow with 23ft lounge having original features. 22ft kitchen diner to rear & bedroom with en-suite & further bedroom/reception room to rear. SUPERB 1st floor conversion with 16ft master bedroom, study/dressing area & REFITTED bathroom. Driveway & garage to front. Extensive lawn gardens to rear. EPC rating: E Ref: HHB12

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FRANKLEY AVENUE, HALESOWEN

EXTENDED semi-detached home with DRIVEWAY in CUL-DE-SAC position. NO UPWARD CHAIN. L-shaped large lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom. Part GARAGE & parking to the front. Lawn garden to rear. GCH & majority UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: C Ref: D1624

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PARK AVENUE, ROWLEY REGIS

EXTENDED home with 3 DOUBLE bedrooms. REFITTED 12ft kitchen leading to CONSERVATORY. 18ft lounge diner & separate study. Fitted bedroom furniture in bedroom 1. REFITTED family bathroom & REFITTED shower room. GARAGE & driveway. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1608

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SPACIOUS & EXTENDED home close to Bearwood High Street & parks. Reception room to front & OPEN PLAN kitchen diner to rear leading to lean-to utility room. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 bedrooms on first floor. Low maintenance gardens. Gas central heating & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: Ref: D1568

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WOLVERHAMPTON RD, OLDBURY

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NEW



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Deceptively spacious semi detached property OFFERING POTENTIAL, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing, convenient established neighbourhood, with NO UPWARD CHAIN, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, 3 BEDROOMS, shower room, pleasant rear garden VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating: TBC

BEARWOOD

£129,950

NEW PRICE



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BEARWOOD

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NEW



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D1606

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gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086

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A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavement. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

painters & decorators

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removals

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

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roofing

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

FOUR WHEEL DRAY CART and set of harness to fit 13hr - 14.2hr with Victorian wheels on it. Can deliver. £375. 07761 379384.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midlands News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

CAVALIER PUPPIES ready September, deposit secure. Breeder Mrs Winwood Arley 01299 861398

COCKAPOO'S Spaniel X Poodle, two girls, one boy, black, £500. 07852 972529.

COCKER SPANIEL puppies, blue roan, 15 Champions in pedigree KC reg and insured, parents eye tested clear, DNA tested clear, ready now. 07936 180943. Staffordshire.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

LOOK

ROSEBEND RESCUE CENTRE
1, Radley Road, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1LN.
01922 627013.
Open Monday to Saturday 11am - 5pm.
Sundays - Bank Holidays 11am - 4pm.
Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)
Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

SHIH TZU PUPPIES 10 weeks old, wormed and flea treated, 2 girls, 1 boy. £325 each. 07572 836519.

TWO MALE RAG DOLL KITTENS, red points, £200.
01384 77547 or 07837 129690.

WANTED. Aviary birds for large private aviary. Also pigeons and poultry for beginner and parrot for house pet. 07870 485491.

VARIOUS UNITS TO LET. Good rates, Brierley Hill Town Centre.
Contact anytime and please leave message
01746 710179.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9ct £300 per ounce

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A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester
Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
• Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys
• Clocks • Paintings • All silver
• Chinese items • Old Ivory
• Military items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
0121 602 2569/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

A BEST TOP PRICE PAID Wanted all medals, helmets, swords etc. Single items, full collections. Anything considered. 07511 500 337.

HALCYON DAYS presentation boxes required for private collector. 07973 282574 or 01902 485008

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED SUN TANNING unit, stand up/walk in, not a bed. Telephone 01902 672572.

kitchens & bathrooms

COMPLETE KITCHEN wood units, integrated appliances, dish washer, fridge freezer, oven / hob. 15ft x 10ft. offers. 01902 671540.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS
Free Estimates on any TV Repairs, Plasma, LCD, 3D, LED, Projection. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.
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lost & found

LOST FINCHFIELD / MERRY HILL AREA
Friday, July 10, much loved neutered white/ginger cat, microchipped, part of left ear missing due to recent op. Needs vet treatment.
Call 07519 746679.

LOST - Saturday 25th pm, outside Tettenhall Institute Honda car key and keys. 01902 836829.

MISSING AFRICAN GREY PARROT YOUNG MALE
Lost since June 29 Bilbrook/Codsall area. Red tail feathers with ring on left leg. If any sightings,
01902 845414/07743 367122.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 25019 / 07831 246292

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617



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6

Property

properties wanted

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A BEAT ALL CASH DEAL
We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626.

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for the top price for your house. 0800 169 1118.

FORGET THE REST and call me now for a best cash offer. 01543 499032

HAVE CASH TO SPEND on buying houses and I pay more than the rest. 01922 689023

I BUY HOUSES Any area, any condition. **FAST COMPLETION.** 01384 226087

WE ALWAYS PAY MORE for the best price now. Call Aardvark 0121 308 7786

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEDSIT PENN AREA Newly decorated, quiet house, laundry facilities, door step amenities, references required. No DSS. Single occupancy. 07482 379419.

FLAT TO LET Wolverhampton, 1-2 bed, CH, DSS welcome. Off road parking. 07718 896058.

PENNFIELDS WV, 3 bed unfurnished house, £500pcm, DSS considered. 01743 357305.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton. from £85 pw inc bills. No DSS. Small deposit 07940 116130

houses for sale

SEMI DETACHED house 3 bed, Weston super Mare, with 3 room Granny Annex, 112ft garden, £239,950. 01934 416232.

land

LAND FOR SALE IN SOUTH WEST FRANCE

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The District is Chancelade similar to Wightwick, near Wolverhampton, the price is 48,000 euros.

Phone 07891 558624.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

property exchanges

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EXCHANGE WANTED

Spacious one bedroom ground floor flat with well kept communal garden in East Park.

Want to move to a 1 but preferably 2 bed bungalow with reasonably sized garden in or around East Park.

Other areas considered.

07955 506251.

WANTED

7

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8

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CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.0 SE. 2010, silver, 10,000 miles. 12 months MOT. Excellent condition. £2,400. 07913 906764.

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO EXCLUSIVE ESTATE. 1.6. 05. Low miles. 61,000 miles. 10 months MOT. FSH. 5 door. A/C. Alloys. E/W. CD. Good condition. Genuine callers. £1,900. 07535 261698.

FIAT PANDA
2006, 1.2 automatic, yellow, good condition, MOT May 13, 2016, 56,000 miles, selling due to giving up driving.
£1,750 ono
07905 432569.

FORD FIESTA 1.2. Studio, 3-dr hatch, 07 reg, blue, MOT'd, 48,000 miles, very good condition. £2,395. 01902 650894 07804 780221.

FORD KA 1.3
2005, 31,000 miles. Two owners.
8 months MoT. FSH.
£1,650.
07443 567011.

LEXUS 450 hgs Hybird, 2006, 56, auto, blue, new shape, full leather, fully loaded, one owner from new, £6,250 ono. 07852 252582.

MINI ONE CONVERTIBLE 1.6
Petrol, 2008, 51,000 miles, pepper white, immaculate.
£5,995.
07743 448164.

PEUGEOT ALLURE 207 SW. 62 plate, extended warranty, Azure blue, genuine low mileage, extras, excellent, £7,500. 07500 834943.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2. 2010, silver, 14,000 miles, Tom Tom, clean, immaculate, MOT'd, cruise control, £3,250 ono. 07460 116516.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE MK3 1.4
2006, Black. 86,000 miles. Reliable. Excellent condition. FSH, 12 months MoT. A/C. New brakes. New cam belt. Major service. CD player. Parking sensors. Spare key.
£1,795 ono.
07799 437200.

ROVER 216 COUPE GTI
1990. Twin cam. Honda Engine. Low Mileage. Lady owner. Full MoT. Excellent condition. First to see will buy.
£2,500
01746 763419.

SKODA FABIA 5-dr Hatchback
2010, red, 1,200cc, Petrol, 51k, MoT till 3/16. £3,250. Genuine reason for sale. 01743 792836.

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SMART FOR TWO PASSION
2007, 61,000 miles, 1 owner, 6-speed, turbo, cheap tax £30 per annum.
£2,300 ono.
07862 252647.

TOYOTA AURIS late 07, 20,000 miles, as new, very reliable, MoT'd FSH, Grey Met. £4,444. 01746 714470 or 07814 263474.

VAUXHALL ASTRA CDTi EcoFLEX
September 13, 63 plate. 14,927 miles. Silver. Top spec. Sat Nav. Stop start etc.
As new.
£10,995.
07703 463444.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL TIGRA
57 reg, 44k miles, blue/grey, Convertible, 2 owners. MoT (April 2016), leather interior. Excellent condition.
£8,500 ono.
07837 381086.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ALFA ROMEO 2.0 T SPARK
2000, MoT Feb 2016, FSH, PAS, Air con, blue, very well maintained, excellent condition.
£495.
07676 187878.

CITROEN BERLINGO, 2002, 155k, alarm, 4 months MoT, CD, very good runner, rainwater leak in footwell hence price £450 ono.
07782 212646.

CITROEN SAXO 1.1, 2000, 5 door, orange, MoT December, 74,000 miles, very good condition, £495 ono, 07914 941799.

CITROEN SAXO 1.1, 2003, 52,000 miles, silver, 11 months MoT, some service history, excellent condition, £1,000 ono. 07734 162908.

FORD FOCUS LX, 2002, 105,000 miles, green, electric windows, air con, long MoT, gas, stereo, CD, good condition, £600.
07966 403475.

FORD FOCUS ZETEC 10k miles, MoT, black, 65,000 miles, 5dr, very good runner, **SOLD.**

FORD KA, 2006, 12 months MoT, red, very clean condition.

FORD MONDEO 2.0, 2001, alloys, CD, excellent condition, 10 months MoT, £500 ono.
Telephone 07772 795042.

MAZDA 6 SERIES 2.0, petrol, auto, 2007 sportback, 87k, very good condition, very reliable, £1,300.
Telephone 07474 371548.

MAZDA PREMACY ADVANTI
2001 X Reg, petrol, MoT Feb, AC, EW, PAS, ABS, tow bar, looks and drives lovely, high miles.
Hence **£550 ono.**
07908 134383.

MERCEDES 190E
1.8 Auto, K reg, 121,000 miles, MoT Oct 2015. New tyres, brakes, battery and exhaust.
£950ono.
07594 083848.

PEUGEOT 206CC S, 2002, auto, 73,000 miles, blue, air con, 12 months MoT, central locking, CD, quick sale £900 ono.
07768 261696.

RENAULT CLIO DYMANIQUE 16v, 1.2, (04), full MoT, 70k. Excellent condition, £550, 07484 09082.

RENAULT LAGUNA Privilege DCi, 51 reg, long MoT, Red Metallic, low miles for year, excellent condition, £350 ono. 07848 182489.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 petrol, 5Dr hatch, 05, black, MoT Oct, electric, 5 speed manual, 87,500 miles, some history, £350, 07870 730855.

SKODA FABIA 1.4, 52 reg, 5dr, MoT February 2016, 78k, clean. £695 ono. 07411 733865.

TOYOTA PREVIO 1.5, 2.0 diesel, full MoT, service history, 2 owners from new, very reliable, good condition, £1,750 ono. 07838 650913.

VOLVO C70 COUPE
2001, Excellent condition. 10 months MoT.
£1,395.
07746 621632.

WANTED BRITISH Motorcycle for private buyer. 01902 828472 or 07928 721487.

classic cars

CLASSIC CARS WANTED
Private cash buyer
Instant cash settlement.
Any age, any condition.
Call Market Drayton.
01630 652993.

commercial vehicles

LAND ROVER TD5 LWB, 2004, ex utility, service records, waxpolled, ply lined, 80k miles, £7,500 inc VAT. Call Clive 07976 426997.

CITROEN BERLINGO VAN
1.9
55 plate, good reliable works van, 126,000 miles, MoT 1 to Sept. **£550 o.n.o.**
01902 650669/07860 654820.

FORD TRANSIT VAN
04 reg, 6 months MoT, good runner, needs breaks and back locks.
SOLD

PEUGEOT PARTNER 600LX 1.9 diesel Panel van, 2005, 109k Miles, MoT Oct 15. Ply Liners. Good condition, £1,250 ono 07919 387115

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10 Hours £391 Five Hours £201
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motorbikes

HONDA CBR125 excellent condition, 56 reg, £1,450.
07399 626741.

KAWASAKI 750ZR, Red, 54 reg., MoT'd March 2016. Great bike. £1,500.
01902 685683 or 07594 146163.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

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TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
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TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS! VANS! CAMPER! NOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED. FREE COLLECTION
WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
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07895 346811 - 24 hrs

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All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
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Scrap It Legally COD. Given Instant Payment.
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ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered
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CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07803 543649, 01902 587035.

spares & accessories

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9
Local Information
public & legal notices

DUDLEY MBC Planning Act 2008 Localism Act 2011
Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) Approval and Publication of a Charging Schedule (Regulation 25)
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
Dudley MBC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Adoption Approval and publication of the Charging Schedule
In accordance with the regulations, Dudley MBC has published the following documents on its website:
• Dudley MBC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule
• The Examiner's Report recommending approval of the Dudley CIL Charging Schedule subject to a number of modifications
• The Report and decision by Council to adopt the Dudley CIL Charging Schedule
• Dudley CIL Adoption Statement (July 2015)
<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/planning/planning-policy/local-development-framework/cil/>

The Dudley MBC CIL Charging Schedule was approved by Council on 13th July 2015 and will become effective on 1st October 2015.

Inspection Arrangements

Copies of the above documents are available for public inspection at:

• During normal office hours at the Council's Offices at 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1HL.

• At the Council's Dudley Council Plus Centre reception, located at 259 Castle Street, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1LQ.

• At all main Dudley Libraries.

• On the Council's website: <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/planning/planning-policy/local-development-framework/cil/>

For further information contact local.plane@dudley.gov.uk, call 01384 814136 or write to Strategic Planning and Historic Environment, 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, DY1 1HL.

John Millar
Acting Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing)

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10
Personals
personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemen's Club, 5* customer rated-Mon-Fri 10-9pm. Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

ATTENTION LADIES 40-55.
Please don't pass this advert by, read on and see I'm a genuine guy.

52, slim, attractive, GSOH, romantic too, hoping for reply from a lady like you.
Box Number P19961, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

KIND MAN IN 50's SEEKS
Younger or similar aged female for exciting times ahead.
First advert.
Box Number C19967, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE, YOUNG 60
Very loving and caring. WLMT similar female for relationship.
Box Number C19962, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE, YOUNG 60's
WLMT Reliable, caring, honest gent, 60-70 for Friendship and maybe more.
Enjoys visiting country pubs, dining in and out, holidays in uk and abroad.

If interested please reply to **Box Number P19970**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE, YOUNG 60
Very loving and caring. WLMT similar female for relationship.
Box Number C19962, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE, YOUNG 60
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MALE, YOUNG 60
Very loving and caring. WLMT similar female for relationship.
Box Number C19962, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

EILEEN CAROLE TAYLOR (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 212 Spies Lane Halesowen West Midlands B62 9SW, who died on 21/06/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 16/10/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Chadway Heath
West Midlands B64 5HW
T448119

DUDLEY MBC Planning Act 2008 Localism Act 2011
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• At all main Dudley Libraries.

• On the Council's website: <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/planning/planning-policy/local-development-framework/cil/>

For further information contact local.plane@dudley.gov.uk, call 01384 814136 or write to Strategic Planning and Historic Environment, 4 Ednam Road, Dudley, DY1 1HL.

John Millar
Acting Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing)

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For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
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or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10
Personals
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First advert.
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Very loving and caring. WLMT similar female for relationship.
Box Number C19962, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE, YOUNG 60's
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MALE, YOUNG 60
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sports clubs

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Contact Tony 07753 181335.

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Please contact Tracey: 07958 179559 or Gareth 07743 172667.

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U9's West require 2 OR 3 PLAYERS
Daniel, 07767 684557
U10's South require 2 OR 3 PLAYERS
Daniel, 07767 684557
U15's Girls require 2 PLAYERS
Sean, 07935 464079.

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At the wheel of Blue Bird

Pendine Sands came alive as spectators watched a commemorative run of the iconic 350hp Sunbeam, on the 90th anniversary of Sir Malcolm Campbell's World Land Speed Record of 150mph.

The National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, marked the anniversary with a demonstration run in the restored Sunbeam with Sir Malcolm's grandson Don Wales (pictured right) at the wheel.

Don, who is also a Land Speed Record holder, said: "I was thrilled to be given this amazing opportunity to sit at the wheel of my grandfather's car back at Pendine where he set his record. It was an honour both to follow in his footsteps and to drive this iconic car on such a special occasion."

"My grandfather (pictured below) was a remarkable man and for us to remember him and honour some of his achievements in this way is very humbling. I really must thank Beaulieu

for this opportunity and for all the hard work the restoration team have done on her."

The car was the brainchild of Sunbeam's chief engineer and racing team manager, Louis Coatalen, and was constructed at the company's works in Wolverhampton during 1919 and early 1920. Its power came from a modified 18.322 litre V12 Manitou Arab aero engine, a type used on naval seaplanes.

The Sunbeam, renamed Blue Bird by Campbell, holds three World Land Speed Records, the first achieved by Kenelm Lee Guinness at Brooklands in 1922 with a speed of 133.75mph. Campbell then purchased the car, had it painted in his distinctive colour scheme and in September 1924 achieved a new record speed of 146.16mph at Pendine, raising it the following year to 150.76mph.

Demonstration

Campbell then sold the Sunbeam and it passed through a number of owners and was in a poor condition when purchased by Lord Montagu in 1957, for his ever expanding motor museum. It was restored to working order and when not on display, it was taken to motoring venues in the UK, Europe and as far afield as South Africa. Its last outing was at the British Automobile Racing Club Festival of Motoring at Goodwood in July 1962 when Lord Montagu took it on a 3-lap demonstration run and Donald Campbell did a lap d'Honneur.

During a test fire-up in 1993 to assess the car's condition, disaster struck when a blocked oil way in the engine caused it to seize and 'throw a rod'. For several years after that, the car was on display in the museum with a very visible hole in its engine where the piston and con-rod had exited.

In January 2014, following a complete mechanical rebuild by the National Motor Museum's workshop team over a period of many



years, the Sunbeam was fired-up again – the first time it had been heard in public in over 50 years. The following month it was a star of the show at Retromobile, Paris and was also run at the 2014 Goodwood Festival of Speed.

Doug Hill, the National Motor Museum's manager and chief engineer, said: "When we were rebuilding the Sunbeam, I always hoped it would be finished by 2015 so we could run it

here today on the 90th anniversary of its World Land Speed Record. I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to Louis Coatalen, the designers, the engineers who built it and the people who developed it during its racing history. I am also indebted to our team of engineers and volunteers who have spent more than 2000 working hours returning it to running condition."

Supporting the run was the 1933 aero-engined Napier Railton Special, which holds the

all-time lap record of 143.44mph at Brooklands. The Napier-Railton has its own unique history at Pendine, having been the star (alongside James Mason and Ava Gardner) of the 1951 movie Pandora & The Flying Dutchman. In the film, the car is used for an attempt on the Land Speed Record, for which the action sequences (culminating in the car being driven into the sea to quench an engine fire) were filmed on Pendine Sands during 1950.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Corsa 5 Door Hatchback 1.2i 90PS Excite with 16" wheels, M5: Urban: 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban: 62.8 (4.5), Combined: 53.3 (5.3). CO₂ emissions: 124g/km Lowest: VAUXHALL Corsa 5 Door Hatchback 1.0i 90PS SE Turbo Stop/Start ecoFLEX with 16" wheels, M6: Urban: 51.4 (5.5), Extra-urban: 72.4 (3.9), Combined: 62.8 (4.5). CO₂ emissions: 106g/km.

Available at participating retailers only. Conditional Sale. Offers available on orders or registrations made by 30th September 2015. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Offer subject to availability at participating Retailers only. Personal Contract Purchase. *Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) Retain the vehicle: Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle. ii) Return the vehicle, or iii) Replace: Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Subject to our fair wear and tear terms and conditions.



Fashionable sense with Mokka SUV

Commercial feature

Small Crossovers should be fun and fashionable but that doesn't mean they can't also be versatile, capable and practical too. Like Vauxhall's little Mokka? Perhaps.

Mokka buyers are people likely to be enthusiasts for life rather than for cars. So they may not care that this car isn't quite as sharp and wieldy as a rival Nissan Juke, nor does it have the 'big SUV' polish of a comparable Skoda Yeti. Instead, there's a potentially pleasing compromise between the two.

Under the bonnet, there are three main engine options, the most affordable, as ever, being the least desirable of the trio, the 2WD-only 115PS petrol 1.6-litre variant which, with only 155Nm of torque, needs to be rowed along a little with the gear lever – a stick that only offers you five speeds.

A better bet for petrol people is the Mokka we tried, the 140PS 1.4-litre turbo. Sixty is just 9.4s away on route to 118mph, so it's usefully more rapid, and there's a healthier 200Nm of torque.

Despite all this and the optional inclusion of 4WD, the provision of a 6-speed gearbox and more modern mechanicals mean that this pokier 1.4 is actually cheaper to run than the feebler 1.6.

The most practical engine choice though is the one most buyers will probably select, the 130PS 1.6-litre CDTI diesel capable of a top speed of around 119mph and rest to sixty in around 10s.

You get all the main mechanical choices with this unit – so you can specify your car with 6-speed manual or automatic transmission and with or without 4WD.

Perhaps more importantly, you get a lot more pulling power – 300Nm in all. Every Mokka is theoretically capable of towing a braked trailer of up to 1200kg in weight, but this diesel variant is the only one that'll really take such a task in its stride.

This Mokka sets its own course amongst small Crossovers. Though supermini-based, like a Nissan Juke, it's nearly as big inside as a family hatch-style Crossover like Nissan's Qashqai. But whatever your thoughts about this car's size, you'll probably agree that the way this Mokka looks goes a long way towards selling it. Cute and individualistic without being wilfully outlandish in the manner of a rival Nissan Juke.

Not too long ago, it was hard to think of a more conventional brand than Vauxhall. But that was then. Here's how the company is thinking now: looks a lot more appealing doesn't it?

True, this isn't the sharpest handling car of its kind but its as good as it needs to be. Nor is it as affordable as some might expect – but that's only an issue if your comparison is with something smaller, much less well equipped and probably more feebly powered.

Look clearly at what you actually get for what you actually pay and the Mokka makes fashionable sense. With styling and size almost perfectly pitched, it's practical, well equipped, affordable to run and, in 4x4 form, seasonally capable too. A car with an appeal that builds as your interest in it grows. The kind of car Vauxhall needs to make.

TESTED

Vauxhall Mokka
Prices: £15,539 - £24,199
Insurance: 5-14
CO2: 120-153
Performance: [1.4 Turbo] 0-60mph 9.4s / Max Speed 118mph
Fuel Consumption: [1.4 Turbo] (combined) 45.6mpg
Standard safety features: twin front, side and curtain airbags, ESP-plus switchable stability control, hill start assist, descent control system, adaptive brake lights



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DRIVETIME



Volvo XC90 qualifies for grant

Volvo's first petrol plug-in hybrid, the XC90 T8 Twin Engine, has qualified for the UK Plug-in Car Grant (PICG) scheme from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV).

The Swedish firm's new XC90 T8 Twin Engine is now available with an on-road price of £54,955 (including PICG).

The XC90 is the first car to be built on Volvo's first in-house designed and built platform, and powered by Volvo's

new Drive-E powertrains. With a combined output of 407hp, this seven-seat SUV emits just 49g/km of CO₂, at the same time being able to go from zero to 60mph in 5.3 seconds.

Neatly

The car's platform is designed to incorporate the hybrid hardware without encroaching on interior space, with the necessary battery pack being neatly concealed within the centre console. The Drive-E powertrain in the XC90 utilises both a 320hp petrol engine and 87hp electric motor.

The Plug-in Car Grant (PICG) has

been designed to encourage manufacturers to decrease the level of outputted CO₂ exhaust emissions.

To achieve this, hybrid vehicles must emit less than 75g/km, a minimal travelling range of 10 miles and must reach a speed of at least 60mph.

Companies choosing the XC90 T8 Twin Engine can benefit by writing down as much as 100 per cent of the cost against their income tax liability.

Drivers who choose the XC90 T8 Momentum, for example, pay as little as £99.83 BIK a month (40 per cent tax payer) whilst enjoying a full 7-seat SUV with 407hp.

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Dighton is unhurt after high-speed crash in city

HALESOWEN Cycling Club's Oliver Dighton emerged unscathed from a high-speed crash at last weekend's Prudential Ride London road race.

The teenager went over the handlebars at a speed of around 50kph on the final lap of the under-16s race.

The competition run took place in central London on a circuit which went around the famous capital landmarks of The Mall, Birdcage Walk and Horse Guards Parade.

Dighton was riding strongly as a member of the West Midlands team.

He was going well and leading the pack round on the first lap of the contest.

He was then well placed in the build-up to a bunch sprint finish only for the rider directly in front to fall, leaving Dighton with no place to go and consequently ended up on the road.

Solihull's Jake Stewart took victory in the sprint while a subsequent hospital trip for hardy Dighton thankfully revealed there was no serious damage.

He is expected to be back racing by the end of the week.

There was disappointment for his brother Sam and Halesowen team-mate Patrick Fotheringham however, after they failed to gain entry in this month's Junior Tour of Wales.

The pair had been set to ride in a team with would have contained Stourbridge's Anthony Neave as a guest but after 220 entries were received by the organisers, all three missed out together with a four-man team from Wolverhampton Wheelers.

George hit top form to take the victory

W&W Premier Division 1
The George 238
Boldmere St Michaels 136

THE George hit top form against Boldmere recording a 102-shot win in a one-sided match.

Three winners in the first four gave The George a good start with Pete Davenport (21-4), Marc Wilson (21-11) and Paul Greene (21-13) winning to give a 21 shot lead.

This was increased to 60 shots after wins in the middle four by Stewart Meddings (21-5), Paddy McGuinness (21-7), Shane Day (21-13) and Paul Hemming (21-20).

The rout was completed by the back four with Mark Street (21-9), Alan Belcher (21-10), Eric Winstone (21-11) and Jamie Dunn (21-12) all winning.

South Staffs Division 1: Victoria Park 236 The George 143.

Brummies tighten grip on top spot

BIRMINGHAM extended their lead at the top of the National League with a 51-39 victory against King's Lynn.

The Surestop Brummies are now 18-points clear after a return to winning ways at Perry Barr.

Team manager Graham Drury said there's still plenty to work on for the Brummies but was relieved to pick up another three league points.

Said Drury: "First and foremost we got the win and that was the most important thing tonight.

"Zach (Wajtknecht) and Tom Perry were class acts yet again tonight and were both remarkable.

"There were a few who weren't firing on all cylinders tonight but we'll make sure they're all fired up and ready for the big one next Wednesday."

Zach Wajtknecht raced back to form with a sublime 15-point maximum as well as successfully defending the National League Bronze Helmet against King's Lynn No.1 Jake Knight.

Tom Perry made a fantastic return from injury just dropping one point to an opposition rider.

Dan Greenwood proved a solid choice of guest once again as he picked up three race wins on his way to double-figures.

Alex Wilson showed plenty of positives ahead of his return to the reserve berths next week while guest George Hunter showed more points for his efforts.

Sam Chapman and Adam Kirby endured tough nights, but both are determined to bounce back with improved performances in next Wednesday's crucial, top-of-the-table derby clash against Cradley.

Birmingham's second-half meeting was cut short after damage to the air fence, with the Exeter Falcons leading 10-8 after three races.

Birmingham 51: Zach Wajtknecht 15, Tom Perry 13+1, Dan Greenwood 10+1, Alex Wilson 4+2, Sam Chapman 4, Adam Kirby 3+1, George Hunter 2.

King's Lynn 39: Josh Bailey 12+1, Jake Knight 11, Scott Campos 6+3, Ryan Kinsley 4+1, Tom Stokes 4, Layne Cupitt 2+1, Shane Hazelden R/R.

Brittany's a splash hit with fourth win

SWIMMING sensation Brittany Horton produced a personal best to win her fourth consecutive title at the British Summer Championships.

The 16-year-old, from Brierly Hill, recorded a time of just over one minute and one second in the final of the 100m backstroke.

Horton, who represents City of Birmingham Swimming Club, finished in joint first place despite competing in the 17-18 age bracket at the championships which were held in Sheffield.

Team-mate Chloe Finch, 17, from Rowley Regis, also tasted swimming success at the contest after claiming the silver medal in the 200m freestyle.

Horton is due to fly out to New Zealand next month to contest the Youth Commonwealth Games.

And she admits her fourth national title is the perfect preparation as she prepares to join up with Team England.

"I am absolutely delighted to have won," she said.

Personal

"I really didn't expect to. Competing against girls that are older than me, I went into the race thinking more about my time than a place. But when I realised I'd finished in joint first place with a personal best I was over the moon.

"It was the perfect result because all my training is being geared to me hitting top form in New Zealand.

"That is my main aim, I'm really looking forward to the Youth Commonwealth Games.

"But to claim a fourth straight national title was amazing. It really wasn't something I was expecting which made it even more pleasing."

Horton is now gearing herself up for four weeks of intensive training before she jets off to the Youth Commonwealth Games where she will compete in the 50m, 100, and 200m backstroke.

"The majority of the next four weeks will be spent in the pool or in the gym," she said. "I know there is a lot of hard work ahead but I'm looking forward to it all.

"It's such a great opportunity to be able to go out and compete in New Zealand that I'm going to make sure I give it everything I can."

It's hammer time for Heathens



Max Clegg with Heathens colleague Mike Neale.

Picture John Hipkiss

CRADLEY are expecting the biggest crowd of the season when they host the showpiece Golden Hammer individual event at Perry Barr next Wednesday at 7.30pm.

The event, in association with Dudley Stroke Association, is expected to pull in thousands of fans from throughout the region with arguably the strongest line-up since the meeting was relaunched five years ago.

Heathens skipper Max Clegg will face a stern test in Cradley's individual meeting, with some of the top riders in the third tier such as Bradley Wilson-Dean, Adam Ellis and Zach Wajtknecht featuring as well as former Heathens ace Ashley Morris. Admission is £13 for adults and £10 for concessions, and Heathens season tickets are also valid for a busy evening featuring 20 races.

With large numbers expected to be cheering him on, Clegg has revealed his desire to overcome a tough field and follow in the footsteps of Lewis Blackbird and Steve Worrall to become the third successive home winner of the Hammer.

"It's one of the biggest meetings of the season, so I'd obviously love to win it," Clegg said. "I've been riding well recently."

Scorecard flattered opponents, says skipper

HALESOWEN skipper Rich Brooker says Saturday's scorecard flattered Eastnor after seeing his side claim a winning draw.

Brooker's side put in a powerhouse batting display with openers Ed Kilbee and Ben Stebbings in fine form to notch 82 and 83 respectively.

They went on to score 364-6 from their 55 overs, securing four league batting points along the way.

Jack Myers dug deep for the visitors with an unbeaten 59 in the middle order as they held out towards the end for 199-7.

Brooker himself took three wickets for Halesowen with one each for Eddie Rhodes, Dan Jeavons, Faisal Shahid and Tarryck Gabriel.

Said Brooker: "Some late hitting in the last few overs by Eastnor made it look closer than it really was.

"A very good innings from both openers (Kilbee and Stebbings) set up the innings allowing us to score quickly at the back end.

"Although we did not get off to the start we wished to have in the field, two wickets in two balls brought the game back under control with Eastnor never threatening the winning draw score."

And Halesowen Chairman Richard Evans is pleased with the continued improvement of the side.

He said: "I'm delighted with the team spirit and the change in fortunes.

"The team appears to be developing into what we hoped for at the start of the season." Halesowen head to Brewood on Saturday with the seconds in a derby with Old Hill at Seth SomersPark.

Gelder comes close but is outpointed

DUDLEY'S Jamie Gelder pushed Nathan Decastro close but was outpointed by a round in their rescheduled bout on Saturday night, writes Craig Birch.

Gelder was defeated 39-38 at Leeds United Football Club, in a fight that had to be postponed for seven days.

They were ready to step into the ring the previous weekend at the Stoke Rochford Hall in Lincolnshire but rioting spectators caused it to be rescheduled.

The 23-year-old middleweight was previously stopped twice in the first round last winter, although he cried foul through injury and low blows.

The Decastro loss makes it six straight defeats.



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Young cyclist is happy with a top 20 spot

HALESOWEN youngster Gabriella Homer admits emulating the professionals and competing in the Prudential RideLondon Youth Girls Grand Prix lived up to all expectations.

Homer produced a sterling performance during the nine-lap race to finish 19th, as Wales' Ella Barnwell came home in first.

Prudential RideLondon is a two-day festival of cycling and the Grand Prix allows riders such as Homer to compete on the closed streets of the English capital. And the 14-year-old Hagley RC High School pupil claims that although she had a few nerves before it all began, she was ultimately content with her performance.

"I only really got nervous on the start-line, but I like the pressure and the noise. I enjoy it if anything," said the Wolverhampton Wheelers rider. "It wasn't easy, because I didn't have a lead-out or anything, so winning was never going to be easy. I'm pretty happy with top 20 though."

"I've been excited since I found out I got selected because you get to ride the same course as the pros. I found out last week and I've been buzzing ever since. I didn't really sleep last night."

"I wasn't in a team, which has advantages and disadvantages. I raced my own race and didn't have to fit to anyone else's plans, which was perfect."

"I took it all in around me, because I was quite comfortable. I've done some of the Nationals this year and I've been quite comfortable."

The Youth Girls Grand Prix was one of a number of events taking place over the weekend including the Women's Grand Prix, the RideLondon-Surrey Classic and the RideLondon-Surrey 100.

Crowds packed the streets in support of all the riders.

Top swimmers in good showing at summer contest

THE top swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Pond Forge 50m pool in Sheffield for the British Summer Championships.

The top ranked 24 swimmers in each age group were invited to compete in the all new end of season championships, of which five were Halesowen swimmers.

Chloe Finch, who also swims for City of Birmingham, showed her class by gaining a gold medal in the 400m freestyle and silver in the 200m freestyle, proving that she is one of the best in Britain.

Mark Laing also made two finals, coming seventh in the 50m butterfly and 10th in the 50m freestyle.

Whilst James Cuthbert finished 12th in the 50m butterfly and Liley Merrell finished 17th in the 50m breaststroke.

Richard Spoor, who also swims for Loughborough University, got into the final in the 50m breaststroke but disappointingly had to pull out due to injury.

It was a huge achievement for all five swimmers to compete at the championships.

Much activity to be ready for season

LAST season saw Old Hales first team placed fifth in a very competitive National 3 league.

Apart from three games that should have been won, the squad were close to a playoff position.

The club presentation dinner on July 3 marked the season and its successes.

The award winners included first team forward, Tom King as most improved player, centre Carl Robinson as best and fairest player and Director of Rugby Gary Cox for overall services to the club.

The club as a whole had a successful season. The Colts showed promise with a young side developing well and looking good for the new season.

Rugby

A Mini/Junior section under the continued Chairmanship of John Wragg, continues to flourish and Ollie Taylor takes the role as club coaching co-ordinator to enable the best quality coaching support to our developing youngsters.

The club has seen a lot of development during the closed season including a new training surface costing more than £60,000 which has been prepared over the last 18 months.

This provides a long awaited all year round training surface, with floodlights, for the whole

club to benefit from this coming season.

With joint working between the Rugby Section and the Association, the house and grounds have seen investment, including a mezzanine floor in the entrance lobby and money invested in ground and building uplift.

On the Rugby Committee, Ian Bullock remains as Chairman with Tim Sherrey as Secretary and Tony Crocombe as Treasurer.

On the playing front Gary Cox continues as Director of Rugby with Dan Grant taking over as First Team Manager supported by Simon Hussey.

Anyone is interested in supporting the club should visit their website or call 01562 883036

FIRST FRIENDLY LOSS FOR YELTZ

Halesowen Town 0 Alvechurch 2
HALESOWEN'S debut home appearance ahead of the new campaign ended with a disappointing first pre-season defeat.

The loss came at the hands of in-form Midland Football League Alvechurch.

Alvechurch lined up with three former Yeltz players amongst their numerous new additions from Tividale and they struck two first-half goals in their final friendly to remain unbeaten in pre-season.

Joe Hull headed Isaac Cooper's 6th minute throw-in at former Yeltz goalkeeper Paul Evans and an Ashley Parsons-Smith shot was cleared from another long Cooper throw-in after 10 minutes. Alvechurch then won the first corner of the game in the 13th minute but Asa Charlton nodded clear from Mike Wardle.

For Halesowen, Hull headed another right-wing Cooper throw-in wide in the 21st minute and a neat move involving Anthony Charles, Danny Bragoli and Aaron Wint was cleared two minutes later.

Unleashed

The Church soon took the lead after 31 minutes when Kyle Morrison pushed forward and played the ball on for former Yeltzman Nigel PENNEY to loft the ball over advancing home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant from the edge of the penalty area into an empty net.

Alvechurch doubled their lead in the 38th minute when Danny PRIEST exchanged a clever pass with Joel Ambalu before stroking home from the right of the penalty area.

Just before the interval Evans collected Cooper's free-kick low-down and at the other end the visitors forced their 3rd corner of the half.

At the start of the second half Morrison cleared the ball off the toe of Greg Pearson in front of the Alvechurch net but the visitors then threatened again when Ambalu hit a low shot at Sargeant.

After a series of substitutions mid-way through the half, Evans grabbed a 74th minute header from Aaron Griffiths at the far post.

The Yeltz host Northern Premier Division One South outfit Tividale in the final pre-season friendly at The Grove on Saturday at 3pm.

Jordanne cements No.1 spot



Jordanne Whiley in action at the British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships. Picture Tennis Foundation

WITH five weeks to go until the start of her US Open doubles title defence in New York, Halesowen's Jordanne Whiley has cemented her world No.1 doubles ranking with her latest victory at the Belgian Open.

Whiley clinched her sixth women's doubles crown of 2015 as she partnered South Africa's Kgathato Montjane to victory at the ITF 1 Series tournament.

The top seeds reached the final with ease, but after two straight sets wins they had to regroup in the title decider to defeat Dutch second seeds Marjolein Buis and Michaela Spaanstra 5-7, 6-1, (11-9).

World No.5 and second seed Whiley, who was

playing in her first tournament since clinching her first Super Series singles title at the British Open, also faced Dutch opposition in the women's singles final after successive victories over Spaanstra and Montjane in the quarter-finals and semi-finals.

However, a second win in a fortnight against Dutch top seed and world No.3 Aniek van Koot proved to be just beyond the Ickenham 23-year-old, who was unable to build on a 3-0 first set lead and van Koot fought back to prevail 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

"It was a big relief to get the doubles title in the bag. We didn't make it easy for ourselves, but we got the job done," said Whiley.

Johnson is blown off her course

HALESOWEN golfing star Felicity Johnson is itching to get back on the tour after a difficult couple of days at the Women's British Open.

Johnson finished a disappointing eight over par at Turnberry, tied for 94th in the overall standings from a field of 143.

But after looking set to make the cut after day one and falling victim to some horrendous weather conditions on the Donald Trump-owned course on Scotland's Ayrshire coast during her tee-time on the second day, the Midlands golfer is determined to put a bad event behind her.

She said: "It was a shame about the monsoon on the second day."

"In the six years or so I've played in the British Open and across my career it was some of the worst conditions I can recall."

"I play quite a high game and when the wind sets in that obviously makes it a lot tougher."

"On day two I teed off at 2.44pm when the morning session started at 6.30am."

"A huge advantage can be gained from tee-off times. The calmer conditions have a big say in things and unfortunately me and the girls teeing off around me had a tough time of it."

"Links golf is always tough because on the pro tour we only get to play it two or three times in the year."

"My short game has never been as good as it maybe should be. But I did feel like I could have had a good week, particularly after finishing the first day so well."

There is not much time for Johnson to recover as she flies out to Prague for a European Tour Event this weekend before she heads to her regular base of Florida for three weeks of LPGA competition.

Sinclair slots home a hat-trick for Villa

Notts Forest 3 Villa 3

WINGER Scott Sinclair was at his sparkling best for Villa with a hat-trick in their pre-season friendly at Nottingham Forest.

Sinclair's treble put the claret and blues in control, after Forest striker Dexter Blackstock broke the deadlock inside the first 30 seconds.

There was a glut of late goals that went against the visitors, with strikes from captain Henri Lansbury and Kelvin Wilson snaring a draw.

Villa had barely drawn breath before Blackstock slotted under goalkeeper Mark Bunn.

★★★

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